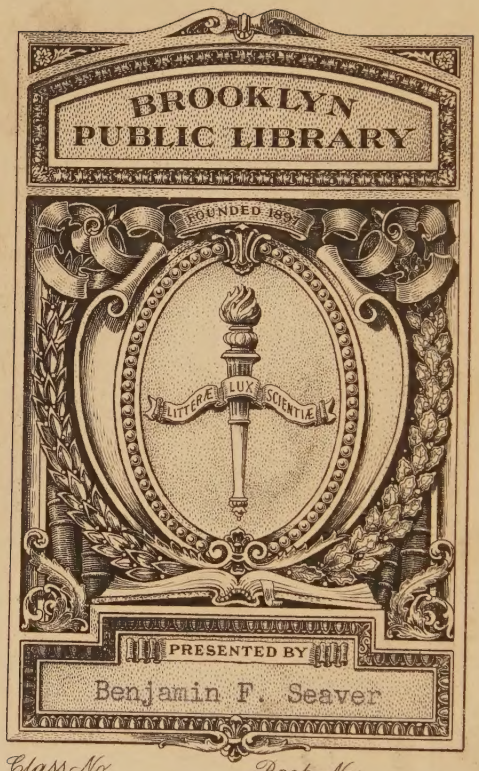
GLIMPSES OF AN OLD SOCIAL CAPITAL



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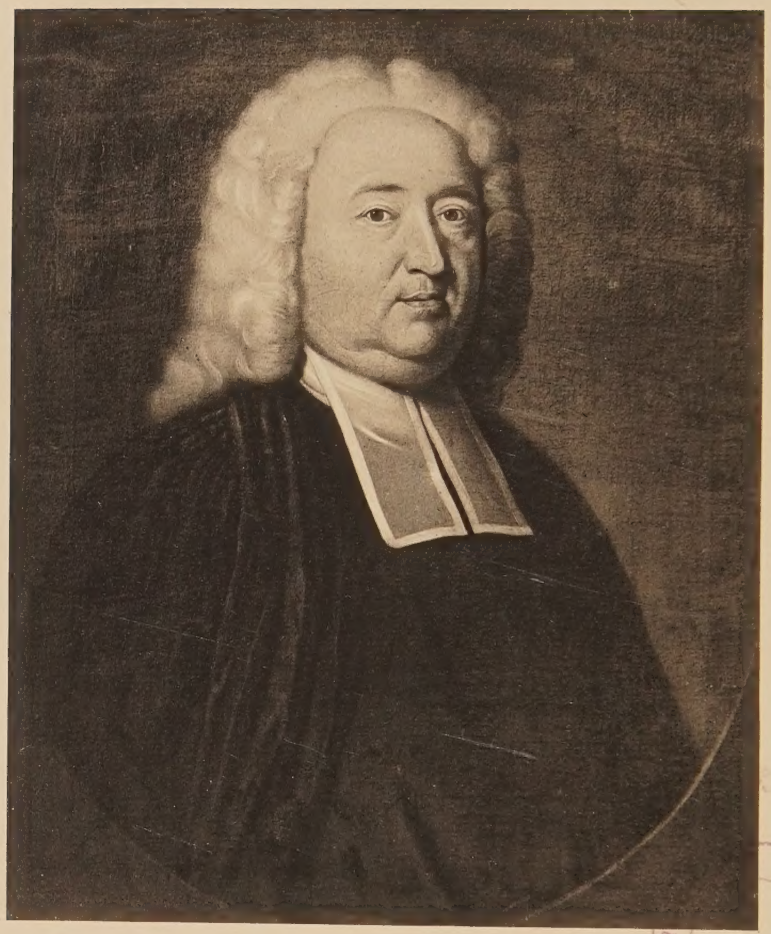

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Arthur Browne

Glimpses of An Old Social Capital

(*Portsmouth, New Hampshire*)

AS ILLUSTRATED BY THE LIFE OF THE REVEREND ARTHUR BROWNE AND HIS CIRCLE

BY

Mary Cochrane Rogers

Boston

Printed for the Subscribers

MDCCCCXXIII

1923

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TO THE MEMORY OF MY FATHER

JAMES ROGERS

OF DERRY, NEW HAMPSHIRE

OF MY SISTER

ELIZABETH FURNISS ROGERS

AND OF MY KINSWOMAN

MARGARET ELIZABETH (FURNISS) ZIMMERMAN

OF NEW YORK

"The true hearts that loved me are mine to the end"

Preface

WITH much pleasure and some reluctance I have been drawn into the writing of this book: with pleasure through my associations in and about Portsmouth, New Hampshire, and the delightful summers I have spent there; with reluctance, for the time I have been able to devote to the task has been all too short to give more than glimpses of this old social capital. For any inadvertent omissions and for manifest shortcomings I ask the indulgence of my readers. Those who have been engaged in research work will know how much time is often spent on a single name or a single date, and will appreciate that it is sometimes necessary to sacrifice literary form to accuracy.

Old Portsmouth as a social capital revolved about Queen's Chapel and its rector, the Reverend Arthur Browne. Without attempting to write a biography of Arthur Browne or of his descendants, a close study of the records of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts, to which Society his coming to the New World was due, has brought to light many new and interesting facts regarding this eminent divine, and has enabled me to correct some of the errors of those who have written about him. The social leadership of the rector of Queen's Chapel was undisputed, and his descendants to-day maintain the same secure position. By tracing the careers of some of these descendants I have been able to show how the characteristics of the Reverend Arthur Browne have been transmitted to the present generation.

The story of the origin, growth, and political history of Portsmouth has been treated by many writers. In dwelling here on a single phase of Portsmouth's development, political history has been treated as incidental. The sons and daughters of Portsmouth have gone to all parts of the world, and many distinguished in social life may trace their

ancestry to the leaders in thought and manners of the old City by the Sea. I have allowed the story of these bygone worthies to be told largely by their contemporaries, whose nearer viewpoint must necessarily be of greater value than anything gleaned from tradition or history. The letters and documents of the social leaders of old Portsmouth are self-revealing. The difficulty of such a course lies in the necessity of selecting but a small part of the valuable material which has been accumulated during a long period of research.

I have tried at the earnest solicitation of my interested friends to produce this book for the Three Hundredth Anniversary of the First Settlements in New Hampshire, 1623–1923.

My appreciation and many thanks are due Reverend Marmaduke Edmonstone Browne, of London, for rare Browne material. To Templeman Coolidge, Esq., of Boston, for the courtesy of the print of the Wentworth Mansion. To Mr. Frank W. Bayley, of the Copley Galleries, Boston, for the interesting prints of portraits of many of the notable people of Portsmouth. To Mr. Julius H. Tuttle, of the Massachusetts Historical Society, for his patience and willingness in aiding me in my research work. To Mr. Otis Grant Hammond, of the New Hampshire Historical Society, for his ready helpfulness, and to all interested in American history who have in many ways given me encouragement.

Longfellow's poem, "Lady Wentworth," *and the extracts from Whittier's* "Snow-Bound" *and* "The Ranger" *are used by permission of, and by special arrangement with, Houghton Mifflin Company, the authorized publishers.*

MARY COCHRANE ROGERS

Copley Square Hotel
Boston, 1923

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Glimpses of an Old Social Capital

Chapter I

Reverend Arthur Browne, a Pioneer of the New World

IN the early days of the Colonies, the Church was the centre around which revolved the transplanted culture of England and the budding native genius of the New World. In social life, despite pretensions of absolute democracy, there was an aristocratic supremacy marked by the church which one attended. Probably this was an outgrowth of the inherited culture of the Renaissance of Learning in Europe, contemporary with the invention of printing, when nobles who fought in Brittany humbly learned their letters from dignitaries of the Church. In the New World the Church came first in the minds of those who held an intellectual supremacy over the hewers of wood and drawers of water. The rector was not only the spiritual adviser, but he was sought by those among the educated families who desired to bask in the light of his wit, wisdom, and learning. Portsmouth was well established as a community when there came to it, as leader of its spiritual interests, a young man who was destined also to exercise a powerful weight in its social affairs, and whose descendants to-day hold preëminent positions in the larger and more complex communities in which they live.

Arthur Browne was the third son of the Reverend John and Margery (Donellan) Browne. Reverend John Browne was a native of Scotland and a member of the family of Colstoun Browne, of County Haddington,—a highly respectable family, later connected with the Earl and Countess of Dalhousie through the marriage of George, Earl of Dalhousie, with Christian, daughter of Charles Browne of Colstoun. According to tradition, Margery Browne, mother of Arthur, belonged to "one of the proudest families in Ireland."

Reverend John Browne went from Scotland to Ireland as chap-

lain to "the Blew Regiment" raised by the Earl of Drogheda in 1689. He was presented by Lord Drogheda to the living of Tully-allan-with-Mellifont (Counties Louth and Meath).

Arthur Browne was born at Mellifont, County Louth, Ireland, in 1699. He entered Trinity College, Dublin, June 17, 1717, as a sizar, took his B.A. degree in 1722 and M.A. in 1729, serving in the interim as private secretary to Dean Swift, so tradition says; soon afterward he entered Holy Orders as a clergyman of the Established Church. An old MS., written by his grandson, the Prime Sergeant of Ireland (1805), says: "I have heard many instances of my grandfather's good scholarship, as well as of his strength and agility in bodily exercises, related by the late Mr. Tisdal, brother to the Attorney General (who said he had often seen him leap over a pitchfork laid upon two others upright), and by Dr. Clement, the late Vice Provost."

Arthur Browne married Mary, daughter of the Reverend Thomas Cox, S.T.B., Vicar of St. Peter's, Drogheda, and Elizabeth Cox, née Williamson, a sister of General Adam Williamson, Lieutenant-Governor of the Tower of London, 1722–47. Miss Elizabeth Cox was a woman of uncommon wit and learning and had been an intimate and a favorite of Swift, until one day, having in his presence shown strong antipathy to a spider (which feeling seems to have descended to her posterity), he exclaimed, "I see you are a mere woman," and from thenceforth shunned her.

Through her arose the close intimacy between the Browne family and that of Brigadier-General George Williamson,—who commanded the whole of the Royal Artillery at Quebec, under Wolfe,—and his son, Lieutenant-General Sir Adam Williamson, K.B.

It is not proposed here to write a complete biography of Reverend Arthur Browne, who, as a young man, came from England into a rough-hewn world to smooth its corners and polish its surfaces with social graces. The position which he held, however, was

SIR WILLIAM PEPPERRELL

From a Painting by Smibert

in some respects unique, and it is necessary, in dealing with Portsmouth as a social capital, to give some account of his forbears and his descendants. As far back as I have been able to trace the Browne family ancestry, the family has been headed by gentlemen devoted either to the Church or to the Army, with one notable exception: Arthur Browne, LL.D., who was equally distinguished in civil life.

The great agency for the upholding of the spiritual faith in New England was the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts, which had already sent out to New England, John Eliot, the Apostle to the Indians, whose labors have made his name forever to be remembered. In selecting those who were to come to the New World to care for the infant churches and spread the Gospel, the Society endeavored to obtain young men of promise, who would not only minister to the spiritual wants of the young churches, but who would uphold the social supremacy of the Church of England. The field was naturally sought only by those of more than ordinarily adventurous disposition, and the minutes of the Society bear eloquent testimony to the zeal that fired the young missionaries. The minutes for October 17, 1729, record as present the Bishops of London, Glocester (*sic*), Carlile (*sic*), Chichester; the Dean of St. Asaph, Dr. Heylyn, Dr. Berryman, Mr. Bearcroft, Dr. Baker, Mr. Rival, Mr. Debat, and Mr. William Hay, with the Bishop of London in the chair. This formidable array of ecclesiastics had before them "A Petition of the Rev. Arthur Brown [*sic*], Master of Arts, praying to be employed as a Missionary in the Plantations," and it was "Agreed that he read Prayers and Preach at St. Michael's, Cornhill on the 9th verse of the 5th chapter of St. Matthew, & that Dr. Baker be desired to hear him."

The text, "Blessed are the peacemakers; for they shall be called the children of God," was an appropriate one for a missionary going to a church in a wilderness surrounded by savages, and apparently the young candidate acquitted himself creditably, for the min-

utes of the Society for November 21, 1729, read: "Dr. Baker reported that he had heard the Rev. Mr. Arthur Browne read prayers and preach on the Text given him by the Society, and that he performed the same to his satisfaction. *Agreed* That he be received the Society's Missionary to Providence in New England with a salary of £60 p. annum to commence from Michās last and that five pounds worth of small Tracts and one dozen Ostervald's Catechisms be allowed him to distribute."

Immediately after his ordination, Arthur Browne embarked with his young wife, infant son Thomas, and one of his wife's sisters, for North America, and arrived in due season at Newport, Rhode Island, where he remained but a short time before going to Providence to begin his duties as the third rector of the King's Church in that town. Of his reception there the minutes of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts bear testimony in the following extract:

"20 *November* 1730 . . . A letter from the Members of the Church of England at Providence in New England dated 8th of July 1730 was read returning their 'Thanks to the Society for sending the Rev: Mr Arthur Browne Missionary there, of whom they give a very good character: that they shall not be wanting according to their several abilities to contribute toward his better support & encouragement: that they have been at a great charge & expence in building their Church which is not yet finished & therefore pray the Society would be pleased to send them the value of £100 in Glass, Lead, & Nailes towards finishing it: and some Common Prayer Books, Whole Dutys of Man & books for the Church, there not being any belonging to the Church save the Bible & Prayer Books, Mr. O'Hara disposing of all the Library before he went away claiming them as his own.'—*Agreed*, That 25 Common Prayer, 25 Whole Dutys of Man, and a Library of Ten Pounds be sent to Providence."

That his missionary labors further extended to the neighboring town of Warwick and that his labors in Providence were eminently succcessful, is shown also by the minutes. In 1731–32 the inhabitants of Warwick send "a Petition that the Rev: Mr McSparran of Narragansett and the Rev: Mr Browne of Providence, who have been conducting services at Warwick may be appointed to do this regularly.—The Society agree that on condition that these Missionaries each of them once a month read Prayers and Preach at Warwick, and send a Certificate that they have done so, each of them shall receive £15 per ann: for the same." (May, 1732.)

"15 *March* 1733. . . . A letter from the Rev: Mr Arthur Browne reports 'That as to his Cure at Providence there is a great alteration since his coming there, the number of Communicants which was then only 27 now amounting to 46, & his Congregation is seldom less than 100 & that he hath baptized 14 adults & 54 Infants which surpasses expectation considering the variety of opinions that prevail there, some contemning the ordinances & others rejecting Infant Baptism.'"

These figures are the more significant when it is borne in mind that Reverend Arthur Browne's predecessor, Reverend Joseph O'Hara, had scandalized the parish by announcing his intended marriage to Miss Alice Whipple, and that the marriage had been prevented by the appearance of an existing wife, which resulted in his expulsion from the church and the dwindling of the congregation. The new rector had a winning personality, affable manners, scholarship, and ability. He purchased a house and glebe of eighteen acres on the Swan Point Road, a mile and a half from the church and within reach of his mission labors. When he left, he sold the house and land to the church, and it remained in their possession until 1794. The first bell in the town was placed upon the church at this time.

The influence of the new minister was felt in other quarters, and

a manuscript written in 1805 by Arthur Browne, LL.D., grandson of Reverend Arthur Browne and Prime Sergeant of Ireland, relates the following:

"The celebrated Doctor Berkeley, afterwards Bishop of Cloyne, in prosecution of his design to establish an American College arrived at Rhode Island about the latter end of 1728, for in a letter from thence dated April 24 1729 he bestows great encomiums upon that Island, and in that Island he met my Grandfather & his family: here began an intimacy which afterwards procured in the Church in Ireland in the Diocese of Cloyne, provision for my Grandmother's Brother, Dr Marmaduke Cox, first Rector of Peet near Macroom, afterwards of the great Island in Cork Harbour, and would have occasioned my father's being provided for in the same County had the Bishop's life continued a little longer than it did. How much Dr Berkeley was pleased with my Grandmother & her Sister appears from his Letter written to Mr Thos: Prior after his return to Europe, and dated March 20th 1734, published in Bishop Stocks' 2nd Edition of his Works printed in Dublin by Exshaw in 1784 amongst the prefatory extracts p. ix-xii [?]. In this Letter he says: 'There is one Mr Cox, a Clergyman near Drogheda, who I understand is under the patronage of Dr Coghill. I should be glad to be apprized of his character on coming to Dublin: no one has recommended him to me, but his father was an ingenious man, and I saw two sensible Women, his Sisters, at Rhode Island, which inclines me to think him a man of Merit, and such only would I prefer.'"[1]

The fame of Reverend Arthur Browne had reached Portsmouth. A letter of the Reverend Charles Burroughs, D.D., Rector of St. John's Church, Portsmouth, dated July 10, 1857, tells of his call to his final pastorate:

[1] From an unpublished manuscript in the possession of Reverend Marmaduke Browne, London, England.

LADY FRANCES DEERING WENTWORTH

From a Painting by Copley

"His fame reached this place, and the Episcopalians here, who had founded a church in 1732, expressed an earnest desire that he should become its minister. It happened that David Dunbar [Dundas], the Lieutenant-Governor of New Hampshire, who had been among the most active in forming the church, was a warm admirer of Arthur Browne, and was among the most zealous for his settlement here. For this purpose repeated entreaties were made by him, to the Bishop of London, and to the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts. At length, on the 25th of August, 1735, an unanimous and most urgent invitation was sent to him to become the minister of this church; and the invitation was accepted."[1]

On November 5, 1734, Reverend Arthur Browne wrote to the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel asking to be removed from Providence to Portsmouth. March 19, 1735, he again wrote, in response to the Society's inquiry, explaining the requests for removal, stating that circumstances in Providence had tended to impoverish the people so that they could not well contribute to his support, while, at the same time, the people of Portsmouth and Kettery (*sic*) were both desirous of his removal. At the meeting of the Society at which this letter was presented there was also read a letter from the Honorable David Dundas, Esq., Lieutenant-Governor of New Hampshire, to the Bishop of London, in which he "prays his Lordship to use his good office with the Society in behalf of that Province & that Mr Browne may be removed thither, that the success and growth of the Church there will depend under God upon that Gentleman who is very much esteemed in those Parts": he says "that the Congregation which came over from the Church at Kittery about two years ago is within 2 miles of Portsmouth on the other side of the Piscatagua river in the Massachusetts Government & may be served by Mr Browne also, & in good weather

[1] Sprague's *Annals of the American Pulpit.*

they can follow him to Kettery & they at Kettery may come over to Portsmouth."

So, disposing of his parsonage and glebe lands at Providence, Reverend Arthur Browne removed to Portsmouth with his family and entered upon a new chapter in his life-work.

Chapter II

Queen's Chapel, Arthur Browne's Church

THE Portsmouth church to which Reverend Arthur Browne had now been transferred is a notable landmark in American ecclesiastical history. In 1732 the site of the present St. John's on the crest of Church Hill was given to the church by a Mr. Hope of London, and a wooden building was erected and named Queen's Chapel in honor of Queen Caroline, consort of George II. Mr. John Thomlinson, New Hampshire's "faithful and vigilant agent" at London, was greatly instrumental in procuring assistance in England to complete and furnish it. It was erected in 1734, and in February, 1736, Arthur Browne was inducted rector at a salary of one hundred pounds sterling a year. The Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts allowed him sixty pounds a year as a missionary for Portsmouth, and fifteen pounds a year for Kittery, where there were but few Episcopalians, and the Parish at Portsmouth paid the other twenty-five pounds.[1]

Many valuable donations have in times past been made to the church, which, from one cause and another, have been lost. The plate at present belonging to it consists of two large flagons, a christening bason, a chalice, and a paten with the royal coat of arms, presented at an early period of the church by Queen Caroline of England, and a cup given by Captain Christopher Rymes, in 1736.

An elegantly printed Bible from the Clarendon Press was presented to the church in 1793 by Arthur Browne, Esq., Representative in Parliament for the University of Dublin, Ireland, in token of his affection and respect for a congregation of which his grand-

[1] "19 March, 1736, *Agreed* to grant the request, with Salary £60 for Portsmouth & £15 in addition for the services at Kettery." (S. P. G. Minutes.)

father was formerly pastor. This Bible is still in use, and may be seen on the reading desk in the church.

An elegant marble baptismal vase with a brazen cover stands by the altar, upon which is the following inscription, said to have been written by Wiseman Claggett, Esq.:

"Sara, Catharina, et Anna Elizabetha, Johannis Tufton Mason Cohortis structoris filiae ornatissimae hoc *baptistorium*, ex Gallicis manubiis apud Sinegalliam, sub auspiciis predicti Johannis acquisitum, ecclesiae Anglicanae apud Portsmouth in provinciâ, vulgo vocatâ New-Hampshire, liberaliter centulerunt Anno Domino, 1761, et vicesimo Sexto praedicationis Arthuri Browne, Wiseman Claggett, et Samuel Livermore ecclesiae procuratoribus."

Beside the font is an old Prayer Book, in which the prayers for the King and Queen have been cut out, but pasted in again under the prayer for the President. One of the treasures of the church is its "Vinegar Bible" (1713), so called from its reading of "The Parable of the Vinegar" for "The Parable of the Vineyard." The most of the edition was suppressed as soon as the error was discovered. In the chancel of the church is a chair given by Queen Caroline in 1732. One Sunday in 1789 it was moved into the Governor's pew and occupied by George Washington, who was visiting Portsmouth. The bell of the church was brought by Sir William Pepperrell from Louisburg in 1745 as part of the plunder secured there.

Queen's Chapel was burned down early on the day before Christmas, in 1806. The Parish at once set itself to work to build a new church. Trinity Church, Boston, contributed $1000 to this end. Several wealthy people of Portsmouth assisted, and in little more than a year the present St. John's Church was standing on the site of old Queen's Chapel.

There were large fortunes made in Portsmouth and the people imitated, in splendor of living, the mother country. Governor Ben-

QUEEN'S CHAPEL PORTSMOUTH

From an old Sketch

ning Wentworth, a man of brilliant achievement, refined tastes, and elegant manners, and rich (his salary besides his house rent and farm was fourteen hundred pounds — a large sum before the Revolution), was the promoter of social entertainments, formal levees, and various amusements.

There were more private carriages and liveried servants in Portsmouth in proportion to the number of inhabitants than in any other place in New England. At the door of Queen's Chapel were chariots with liveried footmen behind, waiting for the Gentry to come out. First the gentlemen — wearing immense wigs white as snow, coats trimmed with gold lace, embroidered waistcoats, ruffles of delicate lace, silk stockings, gold buckles at knee and shoe, three-cornered hats, and carrying gold-headed canes — and now the ladies came forth, stately, powdered, with exquisite lace handkerchiefs folded over brocade dresses or rare and beautiful mantles from over seas — and when they were seated, the pageant passed on.

Lawrence Shaw Mayo, in his valuable biography of John Wentworth, gives us some conception of "the close corporation which constituted Portsmouth society before the Revolution." He says:

"Its church was the Church of England; its wealth came from exporting lumber to the sugar islands and from importing rum in return. But all the lumber in New Hampshire, and all the rum in the West Indies would not admit one to the charmed circle of aristocracy unless the aspirant was otherwise acceptable. . . . In fact, the right kind of outsider might even remain a Congregationalist and be accepted if his wife was one of the élite, but few could attain the inner circle or expect high offices from the governor unless they worshipped at Queen's Chapel and belonged to the blue-blooded flock of the Reverend Arthur Browne."[1]

Within this aristocratic church Reverend Arthur Browne solemnized the christenings, baptisms, and marriages of the great ones

[1] *John Wentworth*, by Lawrence Shaw Mayo. Cambridge, 1921.

of Portsmouth, — with one notable exception. That most picturesque event in the social life of Portsmouth was the marriage by the rector of Queen's Chapel, of Governor Benning Wentworth and Patty Hilton, his housekeeper. The story has been told by many historians, but never as well as in Longfellow's ballad of "Lady Wentworth," the Poet's Tale in the "Tales of a Wayside Inn," which will well bear repeating:

ONE hundred years ago, and something more,
In Queen Street, Portsmouth, at her tavern door,
Neat as a pin, and blooming as a rose,
Stood Mistress Stavers in her furbelows,
Just as her cuckoo-clock was striking nine.
Above her head, resplendent on the sign,
The portrait of the Earl of Halifax,
In scarlet coat and periwig of flax,
Surveyed at leisure all her varied charms,
Her cap, her bodice, her white folded arms,
And half resolved, though he was past his prime,
And rather damaged by the lapse of time,
To fall down at her feet, and to declare
The passion that had driven him to despair.
For from his lofty station he had seen
Stavers, her husband, dressed in bottle-green,
Drive his new Flying Stage-coach, four in hand,
Down the long lane, and out into the land.
And knew that he was far upon the way
To Ipswich and to Boston on the Bay!

Just then the meditations of the Earl
Were interrupted by a little girl,
Barefooted, ragged, with neglected hair,
Eyes full of laughter, neck and shoulders bare,
A thin slip of a girl, like a new moon,
Sure to be rounded into beauty soon,

GOVERNOR BENNING WENTWORTH

From an Engraving after the Painting by Blackburn

A creature men would worship and adore,
Though now in mean habiliments she bore
A pail of water dripping, through the street,
And bathing, as she went, her naked feet.

It was a pretty picture, full of grace,—
The slender form, the delicate, thin face;
The swaying motion, as she hurried by;
The shining feet, the laughter in her eye,
That o'er her face in ripples gleamed and glanced,
As in her pail the shifting sunbeam danced:
And with uncommon feelings of delight
The Earl of Halifax beheld the sight.
Not so Dame Stavers, for he heard her say
These words, or thought he did, as plain as day:
"O Martha Hilton! Fie! how dare you go
About the town half dressed, and looking so!"
At which the gypsy laughed, and straight replied:
"No matter how I look; I yet shall ride
In my own chariot, ma'am." And on the child
The Earl of Halifax benignly smiled,
As with her heavy burden she passed on,
Looked back, then turned the corner, and was gone.

What next, upon that memorable day,
Arrested his attention was a gay
And brilliant equipage, that flashed and spun,
The silver harness glittering in the sun,
Outriders with red jackets, lithe and lank,
Pounding the saddles as they rose and sank,
While all alone within the chariot sat
A portly person with three-cornered hat,
A crimson velvet coat, head high in air,
Gold-headed cane, and nicely powdered hair,
And diamond buckles sparkling at his knees,
Dignified, stately, florid, much at ease.

Onward the pageant swept, and as it passed,
Fair Mistress Stavers courtesied low and fast;
For this was Governor Wentworth, driving down
To Little Harbor, just beyond the town,
Where his Great House stood looking out to sea,
A goodly place, where it was good to be.

It was a pleasant mansion, an abode
Near and yet hidden from the great high-road,
Sequestered among trees, a noble pile,
Baronial and colonial in its style;
Gables and dormer-windows everywhere,
And stacks of chimneys rising high in air,—
Pandæan pipes, on which all winds that blew
Made mournful music the whole winter through.
Within, unwonted splendors met the eye,
Panels, and floors of oak, and tapestry;
Carved chimney-pieces, where on brazen dogs
Revelled and roared the Christmas fires of logs;
Doors opening into darkness unawares,
Mysterious passages, and flights of stairs;
And on the walls, in heavy gilded frames,
The ancestral Wentworths, with Old-Scripture names.

Such was the mansion where the great man dwelt,
A widower and childless; and he felt
The loneliness, the uncongenial gloom,
That like a presence haunted every room;
For though not given to weakness, he could feel
The pain of wounds, that ache because they heal.

The years came and the years went,—seven in all,
And passed in cloud and sunshine o'er the Hall;
The dawns their splendor through its chambers shed,
The sunsets flushed its western windows red;
The snow was on its roofs, the wind, the rain;
Its woodlands were in leaf and bare again;

Moons waxed and waned, the lilacs bloomed and died,
In the broad river ebbed and flowed the tide,
Ships went to sea, and ships came home from sea,
And the slow years sailed by and ceased to be.

And all these years had Martha Hilton served
In the Great House, not wholly unobserved:
By day, by night, the silver crescent grew,
Though hidden by clouds, her light still shining through;
A maid of all work, whether coarse or fine,
A servant who made service seem divine!
Through her each room was fair to look upon;
The mirrors glistened, and the brasses shone,
The very knocker on the outer door,
If she but passed, was brighter than before.

And now the ceaseless turning of the mill
Of Time, that never for an hour stands still,
Ground out the Governor's sixtieth birthday,
And powdered his brown hair with silver-gray.
The robin, the forerunner of the spring,
The bluebird with his jocund carolling,
The restless swallows building in the eaves,
The golden buttercups, the grass, the leaves,
The lilacs tossing in the winds of May,
All welcomed this majestic holiday!
He gave a splendid banquet, served on plate,
Such as became the Governor of the State,
Who represented England and the King,
And was magnificent in everything.
He had invited all his friends and peers,
The Pepperels, the Langdons, and the Lears,
The Sparhawks, the Penhallows, and the rest;
For why repeat the name of every guest?
But I must mention one, in bands and gown,
The rector there, the Reverend Arthur Brown

Of the Established Church; with smiling face
He sat beside the Governor and said grace;
And then the feast went on, as others do,
But ended as none other I e'er knew.

When they had drunk the King, with many a cheer,
The Governor whispered in a servant's ear,
Who disappeared, and presently there stood
Within the room, in perfect womanhood,
A maiden, modest and yet self-possessed,
Youthful and beautiful, and simply dressed.
Can this be Martha Hilton? It must be!
Yes, Martha Hilton, and no other she!
Dowered with the beauty of her twenty years,
How ladylike, how queenlike she appears;
The pale, thin crescent of the days gone by
Is Dian now in all her majesty!
Yet scarce a guest perceived that she was there,
Until the Governor, rising from his chair,
Played slightly with his ruffles, then looked down,
And said unto the Reverend Arthur Brown:
"This is my birthday: it shall likewise be
My wedding-day; and you shall marry me!"

The listening guests were greatly mystified,
None more so than the rector, who replied:
"Marry you? Yes, that were a pleasant task,
Your Excellency; but to whom? I ask."
The Governor answered: "To this lady here";
And beckoned Martha Hilton to draw near.
She came and stood, all blushes, at his side.
The rector paused. The impatient Governor cried:
"This is the lady; do you hesitate?
Then I command you as Chief Magistrate."
The rector read the service loud and clear:
"Dearly beloved, we are gathered here,"

THEODORE ATKINSON, Jr.

From a Painting by Blackburn

And so on to the end. At his command
On the fourth finger of her fair left hand
The Governor placed the ring; and that was all:
Martha was Lady Wentworth of the Hall!

After the dinner Governor Wentworth presented to Reverend Arthur Browne a silver tankard with the Browne coat of arms on it.[1] This rare and beautiful piece of silver was once on the sideboard in the Ranger Rogers House, Concord, New Hampshire. It is now in the possession of Holker Abbott, Esq. (a direct descendant of Arthur Browne), Wellesley Hills, Massachusetts.

This was by no means the only remarkable marriage ceremony in which Reverend Arthur Browne was a participant. Colonel Theodore Atkinson was a power in the aristocracy of Portsmouth, and his coach was at one time *the* coach of the city. An event in the life of his son, Colonel Theodore Atkinson, Jr., had unpleasant results for Reverend Arthur Browne. Colonel Atkinson married his cousin, whose earlier affections had been placed on John Wentworth, afterward governor. But he went to England, and she married young Atkinson. Wentworth returned, however, two years previous to the death of Mr. Atkinson, and came clothed with the dignity of "Governor of the Colony and Surveyor of the Woods of North America." The windows of the governor's house overlooked those of Colonel Atkinson. It would seem that Mrs. Atkinson had not forgotten her former lover, for gossips declared that signals were often exchanged between these windows. Be that as it may, just ten days after the venerable pastor read the "ashes to ashes, dust to dust" of the burial service over the remains of Colonel Atkinson, he was again called on officially. Mr. Charles Brewster, a local historian of the present century, in his *Rambles about Portsmouth*, has thus described the funeral and the events which followed:

[1] Marquis of Sligo.

"The widow was arrayed in the dark habiliments of mourning, which we presume elicited an immense shower of tears, as the fount was so soon exhausted. The next day the mourner appears in her pew at church as a widow. But that was the last Sabbath of the widow. On Monday morning there was a new call for the services of the milliner, the unbecoming black must be laid aside, and brighter colours, as becomes a Governor's bride, must take its place."

The local papers of the time give no account of the bride's costume, but the wedding was in Queen's Chapel, and the same Reverend Arthur Browne performed the ceremony. He may have been excited beyond his wont by the celerity of the proceedings, considering the mourning so hastily put off. Be that as it may, he wandered absentmindedly down the steps, after the wedding ceremony, and, falling, broke his arm. Evidently he did not see fit to explain the circumstances in his report to the Society, made February 13, 1770, merely stating that he had been "hindered for 70 days in his duty by the accident of breaking his arm, of which he is recovered."

Queen's Chapel was also the centre of Freemasonry in the early days of the Province, as is its successor, St. John's Church, today. St. John's Lodge, No. 1, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, was instituted June 24, 1736, and is the oldest Masonic Lodge in America holding continuous stated communications. Reverend Arthur Browne was chaplain of the lodge for a number of years, and preached several sermons at the celebration of the feasts of St. John. Held in high esteem by the members of his lodge, who attended his funeral in a body, the memory of Reverend Arthur Browne is still treasured by the communicants of St. John's Lodge, No. 1, and his portrait appears on the programmes of their stated communications for St. John's Day.

Chapter III

Reverend Arthur Browne—Defender of the Faith

THE new pastorate which Reverend Arthur Browne had assumed was important, although near the northern frontiers of civilization. In his first report to the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel from the new field, in January, 1741, he writes that "The Town of Portsmouth contains between 600 & 700 Families whereof 50 or 60 are of the Church of England, & all the rest Independents, there being neither Quaker, Baptist, Heathen or Infidel that he knows of among them:—that he reads Prayers every morning at 7 o'clock from May to September & preaches a weekly Lecture to strengthen his flock & guard them against the pernicious Doctrine of Enthusiasts, besides his constant Duty on Sundays." He goes on to ask whether he may retain the library which he brought from Providence, the missionary at Providence having claimed it; but the use of it being required at Portsmouth, the Society "*Agreed* that he should keep the Library and that another grant for a Library should be made to Providence."

The coming of Whitefield, who was evidently regarded as the Billy Sunday of his time, was a thorn in the side of the aristocratic congregation of Queen's Chapel. The temporary shed in which he talked to the gaping multitude had little resemblance to the church of Reverend Arthur Browne, and the methods of the "Grand Itinerant" were in strong contrast with those of the suave and scholarly rector of the Church of England.

Three letters from the Portsmouth rector to the secretary of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel are illuminating, not only as to the religious "great awakening" led by Whitefield, but as showing the local conditions of the time; they are here given in full:

Portsmouth, New Hampshire. July ye 24th 1742

Rev: Sir,

Since my last letter to you Strange Commotions of a Religious nature overspreading the Country have exercised my thoughts and demanded the utmost attention. The Seed was sown by Mr Whitefield; His Enthusiastick notions were the Cause of all, which are now improv'd to such a marwellous Device as to vye with the lying wonders of Fox and Nayler. Visions, Dreams, Trances are as frequent among us as they were even in their Day, and their arguments adopted to support them: Impressions, Impulses, Experiences are altogether in vogue & become the Test of Regenerate Men, whilst the true Scripture marks are quite out of request and rejected by these Illuminati: In short nothing but Scotch Cameronian Divinity will go down with them. He is the best & most edifying Preacher who is most presumptuous and unintelligible & can boldly anathematize all that dissent from him.

My small flock (Blessed be God!) have almost escaped the Infection, three or four only have fallen away, but the loss is not much to be regretted as they were persons of no *extraordinary Reputation;* whose *wavering* disposition since their apostacy *tossed to & fro with every wind of doctrine* discovered them to be destitute of sound Principles, intoxicated with conceit, and wedded to their own particular whimsies. But this loss (if it may be called one) is compensated by the addition of thirty six to our Communion (who I hope will be a credit to it) notwithstanding the indefatigable Industry of some crackbrained Zealotts to disturb our Peace and promote Division.

The steddiness and zealous attachment of his Excellency Governor Wentworth to the Church of England, His discountenancing all our modern extravagances, conferring Posts of Honour upon several of my Parish, shewing myself all necessary Countenance in

the discharge of my Office by Example & otherwise, have check'd in some measure the growth of Enthusiasm w^ch^ like an Inundation bid fair to overwhelm us.

The Governor promised the Bishop of London to protect & take care of the Church, & He has been faithful to his promise, our Deliverance was Providential, and nothing (in human probability) but a Revolution in the Civil affairs of our Province at the critical Juncture it happened could have diverted the Storm. The Enemys whole Artillery seem'd levelled against us, Governor Belcher at the head of them, and the chief Ringleaders of the Party under the specious guise of brotherly Love, seeking occasion against us to trepan & overset us, pouring in their Preachers from all Parts, pestering & pelting us with Sermons & Lectures, sometimes three & four in a Day; nay, carrying on their exercises almost whole nights together in their meeting Houses in the most disorderly manner, breaking in upon the Rules & orders of Private Families to y^e^ scandal & offence of many. And all this to captivate the People's Ears (who are mightily taken with novelty) in order to enslave their Consciences.

But their secret designs were open to the Great Searcher of Hearts. He was not ignorant of their Devices, which are now judicially become an occasion of their falling: the Snare is broken, y^e^ Confederacy at variance, all by the Ears, and we (oh! how can we be sufficiently thankful!) quite out of the question.—

Thus are they fallen into the Pit they prepared for others, thus can the Almighty overrule the deep laid schemes of designing and malicious men to the prosperity & advantage of his Church.

I have now given a general & as brief an Account of the Posture of Religious Affairs among us as I am able: to enter upon particulars would take up a volume. The Delusion of some, the Distraction of others, the unaccountable Byass & prepossession of all (enlisted into the Party) in favour of their own experience, con-

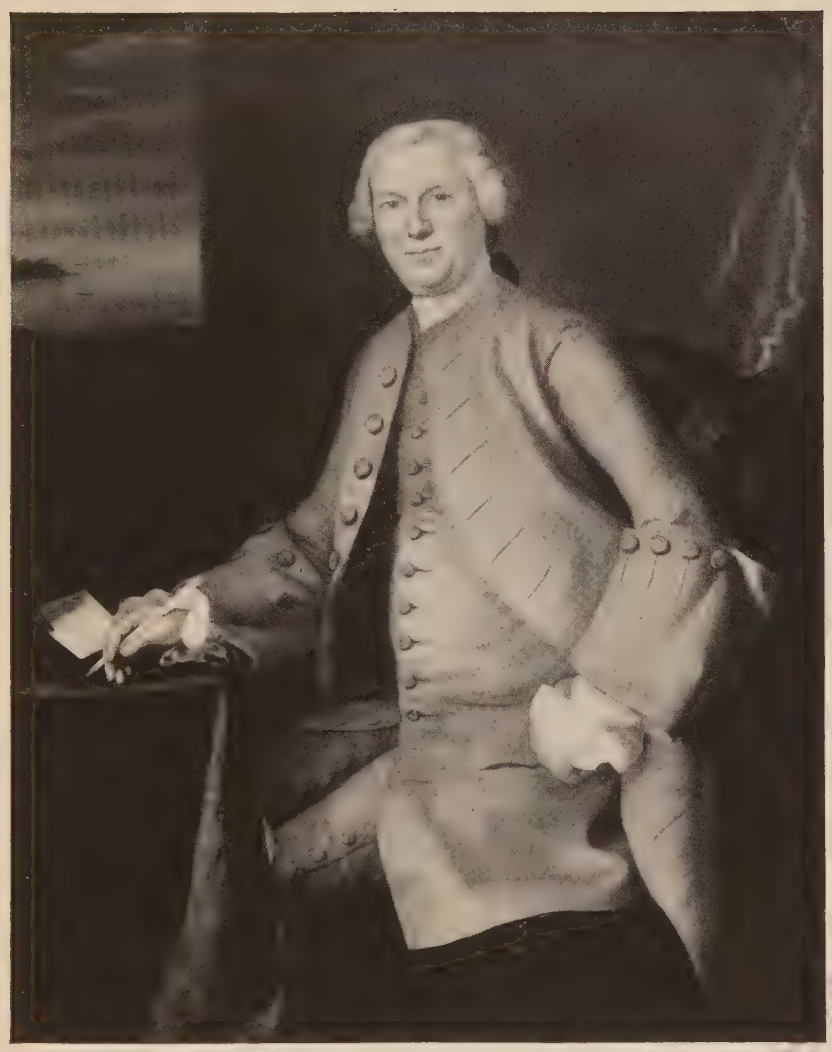
trary to Scripture, contrary to reason which is stigmatized as carnal by every Novice in the Streets, & the use and exercise of it and of *abominable* good works (as they are pleas'd to call them) publickly decryed, is cause of very melancholy consideration.

I pray God of his mercy to bring y^e^ poor bewildered Souls to a right understanding! Many of them I think great Objects of Compassion and entitled to the Prayers of all well disposed Christians.

I have had of late a great demand for Common Prayer Books: could I be indulged with a few, & some other Tracts suitable to y^e^ present times (which I submit to your Judgment and Discretion) I apprehend service may be done our Religion hereby; there seems to be a Door open, for several are seriously awakened & disposed to prove & examine, which they have heretofore been pretty much averse to, or at least without thought of the matter. You know that anything extraordinary has a tendency to put men upon thinking, nor have our present disorders been quite destitute of this effect, which I ascribe to that adorable Providence that brings good out of evil.

I have nothing further to acquaint you with at present but that my Communicants have encreased to 93 which were but 43 in my last account, & that I have since that baptized 22 Infants and 3 adult Negroes, and am in hopes that with y^e^ Divine assistance I shall be so far enabled to stem y^e^ Torrent of opposition I now meet with as to prevent any attempts that may be made to defeat the glorious design of the Society, to whose Prayers I recommend myself, & remain, Rev: Sir,

your very humble Servant
and affectionate Brother
ARTHUR BROWNE.



SAMUEL CUTTS, Esq.

From a Painting by Blackburn

Portsmouth, New Hampshire July 25 1744

Rev: Sir

The circumstances of my Parish continue much as they were at my last writing. No alteration I think but by the addition of a few Communicants, which were then one hundred and six and are now one hundred and twelve.

The congregation in general seems much in love with the beauty and holiness of our Liturgy which has produced a suitable Behaviour at the Celebration of Divine Service and an uncommon conformity to the Rubrick. Nor is this all. Their lives are agreeable to their profession, giving no offence to those that are without, and I may venture to say can challenge the most violent opposers to charge them with wilful or habitual sin, which I apprehend to be a more certain sign of regeneration than any of the new fangled, lately revived, much boasted Chimerical notions of the present times. These are Whitefield's Legacy bequeathed New England and when it will get entirely rid of them God only knows, although it should not be concealed that the infatuation which so violently seized on both Ministers and People is much abated.

"Touch all that he hath" was of old applied by Satan to Holy Job, but the Devil was mistaken, the good man was proof against every Trial. Not so our New England Teachers. They have been touched by the Itinerants, but not being able to bear it, have taken the alarm, but those Feats are now performed by virtue of beloved Interest which neither reason nor Religion could produce before. Enthusiastic Strolers are now decryed, Disturbers of Publick worship censured and reproved, nay, some have proceeded so far as to recommend Decency and Order, and praying by Form too. And I am really of opinion that many are disposed to believe them and to be convinced of the necessity of those things.

Oh may the Spirit of the ever blessed Jesus continue to assist his

true and faithful Pastors everywhere to defeat, frustrate, and confound all the Devices of y^e^ Enemy against our truly *Primitive* and *Apostolic Church*, and may *she be* successfully *propagated* untill the *Kingdoms* of this world become *the Kingdoms of the Lord and his Christ.*

Before I conclude I must acquaint you that I have some reason to expect that my presence will be in a short time necessary in my Native Country in order to settle some affairs of consequence to me and my Family. Such a voyage is very far from being desireable, and shall be avoided if possible. But if it cannot be dispensed with I hope I shall meet with the same Indulgence from my venerable Masters and Benefactors that others of my Brethren have done. I assure you, Sir, whenever it happens I shall be expeditious in my negotiations, and take the best care I can to have my Cure supplied in my absence. — A Line upon this occasion speedily will very much oblige Rev: Sir,

your affectionate Brother in our Lord Jesus,
and most obedient Humble Serv^t^
ARTHUR BROWNE.

Portsmouth, New Hampshire March ye 18 1744–5

REV: SIR

Enclosed you have my Notitia Parochialis for the last year

Notitia Parochialis Fairfield
From March 25 *till September* 25*th* 1744

No of Families professing the Church of England	65
No of Actual Communicants of the Church of England	70
Of which received this half year	2
No of infants baptized this half year	9
No of Heathen &c about	30

which would have come sooner to hand did not the Troubles the Country is involved in Preparatory for War, Embarkations, Embar-

goes, waiting for Convoys, rendered it impossible for me in our present circumstances punctually to comply with the Society's orders.

You may observe, Sir, that the number of y^e^ Baptized in my Notitia is increased this year. It is owing to a visit I have made to some of our Frontier Towns, Barrington & Nottingham, in which Places I spent a week, preached twice a day to a considerable number of People & Baptized sixteen Children. My Preaching so frequently was not in imitation of the Grand Itinerant (who is now among us)[1] nor any of his Followers, but at the earnest request of the People of the before mentioned Towns, who seem'd to thirst and pant after the Word: this being the first visit ever made them by an Episcopal Minister, & many of them being brought up & educated in that way. I have a pleasing prospect of gathering a considerable Congregation in those parts, provided the Almighty Conductor of human affairs is pleased to grant us peaceable Times; my success depends entirely on this, for those Towns being greatly exposed to the Incursions of the Indians would subject me to infinite hazards were I so imprudent as to venture frequently amongst them, as affairs are now circumstanced. However, I purpose to see them again shortly, the Indians not being in a condition at this season of the year to give them much disturbance. I have nothing more to add at present, but subscribe myself Rev: Sir,

y^r^ obedient Humble Servant

ARTHUR BROWNE.

In November, 1748, Mr. Browne writes that "The torrent of Enthusiasm which bid fair to overset them is greatly abated & dwindles into the contrary extreme of Lukewarmness & the Infection is so general that no denomination of Christians is exempt from it, but he prays that the spirit of Gods Grace may speedily deliver them by the renewing of their minds. Mr. Browne hath

[1] Whitefield.

for some Time past Dedicated Part of his Time to the Service of the Inhabitants of Nottingham & Barrington, two Towns situate on the Frontier of the Province, and therefore bordering on the neighboring Indians, a savage fierce and cruel Enemy that made his Visits not free from Danger, but they being now drawn off on the Publication of the Cessation of Arms, he has an encouraging Prospect of gathering a considerable Congregation if he may be Furnished with Prayer Books and practical pious Tracts together with some proper Controversial ones to distribute among them: Mr. Browne begs Leave to say further that if the Proposal made by Governor Wentworth to the Society of applying to the Crown for the Grant of Lands in that Province were vigorously Prosecuted, it would redound greatly to their Advantage, & that the Governor is entirely in the interest of the Society and desirous of promoting the Growth of the Church, which has made him many Enemys without slackening in the least his Zeal." It was "*Agreed* to send him 2 doz: Common Prayer Books & 40/- worth of practical, proper, and controversial, small Tracts."

December 21, 1750, a letter from the Honorable Benning Wentworth, dated Portsmouth, August 17, 1750, informed the Society "that as the Rev: Mr. Brown Missionary of Portsmouth had obtained leave from the Hon: Sec: to come to England on his private affairs, he could not do that Gentleman Justice without letting the Society know that Mr. Brown's conduct in the Station he is in has been without Exception, that besides the constant attendance in the Duty of his own Parish he has for several years past Preached at Nottingham, Barrington, and to the people in the neighborhood of those Towns, which are 20 miles distant from his own Church, and has also made several journeys to Nottingham West and Preached to the inhabitants of that Town, Dracut, Dunstable, & Lytchfield, and there is a great Prospect of getting two or three Churches in those Parts." "*Agreed*—that in Regard of Mr. Brown's long &

MRS. SAMUEL CUTTS

(Anna Holyoke)

From a Painting by Blackburn

extraordinary Services and Governor Wentworth's Recommendation to give him a Gratuity of £40."

In the year 1750 he passed several months in England, where he received the highest attentions. He returned home with renewed interest in his duties, and his labors were subsequently crowned with signal success. The minutes show that his duties were now so great as to require assistance:

"20 *December* 1754 . . . Letter from the Rev: Arthur Browne enclosing a letter from the Churchwardens & Vestry of the Church of Providence Plantation dated 16 January 1754 setting forth their melancholy circumstances at that time through the continued illness of Mr. Checkley, the Society's Missionary to them & begging Mr. Browne to come & officiate to them when his own Congregation could spare him, and professing their desire when his Son, then a Student in the University of Dublin, should be admitted into holy orders, that the Society would be pleased to appoint him their Minister; and Mr. Browne, Mr. Checkley being since dead, humbly desires that the Society would be so good to him and his Son as to grant their request."

January 17, 1755, he writes that there is "little to report in Portsmouth, they being in the same state they used to be although they have lately had Whitfield among them to disturb their peace." He goes on to explain the petition sent by the inhabitants of New Hampshire in "application for the appointment of an Itinerant. They have no Particular person to recommend though Mr. Browne's son has been thought of & would be acceptable if approved by the Society. Mr. Browne has had an invitation to a Town called Dunstable in that Province 60 miles from Portsmouth where he preached to a pretty large Congregation, who departed well pleased (although most of them entire Strangers to our Service), & very desirous of frequent visits, & their necessities may be well supplied by an Itinerant."

Chapter IV

Reverend Arthur Browne — Bishop or Missionary?

IT is probable that Reverend Arthur Browne had at this time the laudable ambition of assuming a position of greater importance in the American Anglican Church, for his letters to the Society indicate that he was much wanted in Boston, where he had been supplying the pulpit of Christ Church. In a letter of July 12, 1756, after thanking the Society for his son's appointment to the vacant pastorate of the Church in Providence Plantations, he writes:

"The Churchwardens & Vestry of Christ Church Boston report the serious illness & expected death of Dr. Cutler, and that Mr. Browne has been doing his best to supply services: they ask that 'Mr. Browne senior may be appointed to succeed [Dr. Cutler] in that Church. Mr. Browne is highly agreeable to the Congregation & they think very likely to promote ye interest of true Religion among them &c.'" The Society "*Agreed* to allow Mr. Browne to 'give what assistance he can without neglecting his duty at Portsmouth.'" This, however, was followed by a definite refusal of the application, and Mr. Browne was ordered back to Portsmouth.

On the 15th of February, 1757, the Churchwardens of Christ Church, Boston, write and remonstrate against the above decision, and beg that he may be sent back to them. Arthur Browne himself also writes (January 1, 1757), "expressing his mortification that . . . the Society are not pleased with his conduct in regard to Christ Church, Boston; Mr. Browne says he left his habitation & Family with reluctance, subjected himself to great inconvenience & expense without any other prospect but of serving the cause of Religion, — y^t^ he proceeded with y^e^ advice & consent of his whole Parish & with y^e^ approbation of both Clergy & Laity in y^e^ other Churches. Assistance could be had from no other quarter, & it was

y^e^ universal Opinion that if Christ Church had been shut up at that time y^e^ Congregation was in danger of being dissolved, which is now properly composed & thro' y^e^ blessing of God in some measure recovered from its declining condition. In which circumstances Mr. Browne intended to leave it as soon as y^e^ weather would permit, y^e^ snow at that time having rendered y^e^ roads impassable. Y^e^ Church of Boston having wished him to succeed Dr. Cutler whenever it should please God to take him he has no objection to removal provided it be with consent of parties; how such a proposal may be taken at Portsmouth he cannot say, but without their free dismission he would not chuse to leave them."

In February, 1758, he reports that "on recovery from a tedious indisposition" last summer, he preached by invitation at Salem, to a "numerous audience who came chiefly out of curiousity but seem'd to depart well pleas'd. By such means as these y^e^ Church of England is now spoken of favourably over a whole Province where 20 years ago it was considered in as odious a light as Popery."

This religious zeal, however, does not seem to have been properly appreciated. On May 9, 1758, the minutes of the Society record that Mr. Browne had again been asked for by the church in Boston, and that the application was again refused. This ended the Portsmouth pastor's chance of a Boston residence, though he still entertained the idea of an American bishopric.

The salary of a Portsmouth rector was hardly sufficient to enable him to maintain the state befitting his social importance. The church at Portsmouth had never provided him with his house rent, which they had agreed to at his coming, and the lands which were to go with the parish had not been given. Reverend Arthur Browne's expenses had increased with his growing family and social state. In a somewhat despondent mood, he wrote to the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel, the minutes of which set forth his troubles under date of May 22, 1759, as follows:

"Notwithstanding danger from the Enemy he had ventured to the Town of Canterbury about 50 miles from Portsmouth where he preached in the Meeting House, and as they have never had (what they call) an Ordained Minister settled among them and as many of them were educated in the Church of England, they seem unanimously agreed to prefer one of our Church, & are disposed to contribute to his support. Care has been taken at the first granting of the Town to set apart a perpetual Glebe, also a right throughout the Township for the first settled Minister's use to be possessed by him upon the same footing with the original proprietors. This is an encouragement (Mr. Browne thinks) should not be slighted (if God should send a Peace) and if the times would now admit of it Mr. Browne would be glad to remove there with the Society's permission and allowance; for his situation at Portsmouth grows very irksome: the old Parishioners are dead, and the young ones are Sceptical and Lukewarm, deaf to admonition and impatient of reproof: the times are very difficult, provisions doubled in price, and many articles trebled, Bills of Exchange depreciated, & many other heavy grievances occasioned by the War. Mr. Browne has served the Society thirty years and now after all his Labour has nothing in view but the melancholy prospect of leaving his Family Beggars in a strange Land, for the little he has endeavored to save slips away for the common necessaries of Life."

The Committee lament that Mr. Browne has occasion to make the above complaints, which affect all the missionaries in general, and at the same time observe that Mr. Browne's salary is the largest given to any missionary in the Society's service.

On the first of October, 1759, after acknowledging the Society's letter and a box of books, he reports that "the success of his Majesty's Arms has freed us from the incursions of the Indians and the frontier Parts of the Country may be visited with the utmost security."

JOHN MOFFATT, Esq.

From a Painting by Greenwood

In September of the following year he again calls attention to his straitened financial condition:

"Complaining that for the space of 23 years & more he has been Missionary at Portsmouth & that during this period 'The Society's terms have never been complied with, but he hath been under the necessity of finding himself an house, nor hath their annual allowance exceeded twenty-four Pounds Sterling, no, nor amounted to so much, as no allowance was ever made for the depreciation of Bills of Exchange. He says the great Streights & difficulties he hath been thereby reduced to, and by the exorbitant advance upon all the necessities of Life since the commencement of the War force him to this complaint, as his Parishioners continue deaf to all his solicitations. This, Mr. Browne affirms, is a true statement of the case, and will admit of no contradiction: his Parishioners are indebted to him for three and twenty years' house Rent, and the debt paid would extricate him out of all his difficulties, and they are well able to pay it, as may be justly inferr'd from their having lately contracted in Boston for an Organ at the price of £200 Sterling, and therefore Mr. Browne hopes that a peremptory requisition of the payment of his Debt might bring them to consideration and convince them of the evil consequences of a refusal, and he begs that such a requisition may be made by the Society." "*Agreed:* to send such a letter to the Church of Portsmouth and desire payment of the rent for 23 years." Apparently the pressure brought to bear by the Society was not efficacious, for we hear more complaints of this kind later.

Governor Benning Wentworth, whose land policy seems to have been designed equally with a view to the enhancement of religion and his own private coffers, had distributed to some two hundred different persons townships of land, reserving for himself a personally selected lot of 500 acres.[1] Provision had also been made for

[1] *New Hampshire State Papers*, Vols. xxiv, xxv, and xxvi.

glebe lands in the towns and for land grants which were to be for the benefit of the Portsmouth church.

Reverend Arthur Browne, on March 3, 1761, wrote a letter referring the Society to an interview which he had had with them on the occasion of his visit to London about eleven years back, when he laid before them certain proposals of Governor Wentworth with respect to the acquisition of tracts of land.

In spite of the fact that Congregationalism was the prevailing religion of New Hampshire at this time, and the number of communicants of Mr. Browne's Church showed no great increase, his missionary labors continued. Queen's Chapel prospered, and he writes to the Society July 20, 1762:

"As to his own Parish Mr. Browne observes that it is in a flourishing way, and the Church has been lengthened twenty-five feet and finished in a decent manner. He thanks the Society for settling his Son at Newport since whose removal from the Mission the Cure of the Professors of the Church of England throughout New Hampshire devolves upon him; a duty he can but poorly discharge, as his particular Flock is of too great consequence to be neglected. He has in vain attempted to procure a gentleman to come home for Orders to succeed his Son in the Itinerancy. The fatality of the small Pox, the danger of the Enemy, and the Sea, are insurmountable Difficulties, and shew the necessity of an American Bishop."

In November of that year it is noted that "as the care of the whole Province has devolved upon Mr. Browne since the removal of his Son to Newport, he has given the People all the Assistance in his power, which has been attended with more fatigue and expense than he is well able to bear. Should the Society be disposed to make him any allowance for his services it will be very seasonable, and gratefully acknowledged." It was "*Agreed* To recommend a gratuity of £10, and appoint an Itinerary [*sic*] as engaged in November last."

In October, 1763, Reverend Arthur Browne again took up the matter of the granted lands. Writing to the Society, "He observes that it is really a pity that the Society is not disposed to pay a little more regard to the Lands that are granted them in New Hampshire which will in time be very valuable provided they are not neglected. He returns thanks for the gratuity of £10. He has baptized throughout the Province since the conclusion of the year 1754 246 Infants & 6 Adults among whom were 2 Negroes. His Communicants are 53." The Society agreed to take Governor Wentworth's proposals respecting the lands into their particular consideration.

At the meeting held March 16, 1764, the Committee considered letters from Reverend Arthur Browne and from Governor Wentworth respecting the grants of land to the Society. Mr. Browne was appointed one of the attorneys, and a blank was left in the power of attorney for Governor Wentworth to add another name.

In September, 1764, Doctor Caner had been driven out of Boston by the smallpox epidemic and came to Portsmouth. This gave Mr. Browne an opportunity to visit several towns in this Province, and among the rest of "preaching and baptizing in London Derry a Town of consequence chiefly settled by Dissenters from the North of Ireland, where he was received in a friendly manner and some proposals were made for erecting a Church." Further account of his missionary work is given in an entry of the minutes for August 10, 1765:

"He is now in the 66th year of his age and the 38th since he entered into the service of the Society,—that notwithstanding his age and Infirmities he has been obliged, for want of an Assistant (which he has no prospect of obtaining though repeatedly applied for) to travel through the Country at the sollicitation of many people to baptize their children, and has since the last account baptized at Canterbury 19, at Boscawen 6, at Pembroke 3, & at Nottingham 6, but can no longer bear the fatigue and expence of these visits. He

says there is a prospect of a great Harvest in these Frontier Towns, but the People having no supply but such as he can occasionally afford are discouraged, and join with the Congregationalists, Presbyterians, or New Lights, where they can do it. Prayer Books are much needed. As to his own Parish one or two Families are lately added, and he has baptized since his last 29."

MRS. JOHN MOFFATT

(Catherine Cutts)

From a Painting by Greenwood

Chapter V

Reverend Arthur Browne—The Closing Scene

ADDED to his financial difficulties and his arduous missionary labors at this time, the Reverend Arthur Browne had more trouble with the religious schismatics. In May, 1766, he wrote to the Society "recommending Mr. Moses Badger for Ordination as an Itinerary" and that "His Parishioners are at Peace among themselves, but the quiet of the Town is greatly interrupted by one Sandeman[1] the greatest Heretick that ever appeared on this side of the Atlantick. His scheme is to explode the usefulness of Prayer and Preaching and to damn all opposers."

In November, 1767, he reports that Mr. Badger, who had been ordained and appointed itinerant missionary at his request, had arrived. He also stated that Governor Benning Wentworth had been superseded by a nephew of the same name (*i.e.*, John Wentworth), "who constantly attends publick worship & appears to be of an ingenuous, amiable, generous, & hospitable disposition.[2] Also that the new Governor is desirous of becoming a member of the Society. His Parishioners live in harmony and peace, increasing in numbers, but his Communicants are comparatively few."

In November, 1770, he wrote reporting the death of Governor Wentworth in October, 1770. On the first of August, 1771, he mentions the death of his son, Reverend Marmaduke Browne, and speaks of his own declining state. He apprehends that "if his Par-

[1] Robert Sandeman, founder of the sect of the Sandemanians, and a son-in-law and disciple of John Glass, founder of the "Glassites," who held that justifying faith is "no more than a simple assent to the divine testimony passively received by the understanding."

[2] In the year 1766, though the Governor had not taken active part in the unpopular measures of the British ministry, some complaints were made and his removal was decided upon. He obtained permission to resign, however, and was succeeded by his nephew, John Wentworth. His twenty-five years' term of office was a period far exceeding the commission of any other Royal Governor in America.

ishioners will not afford him some assistance, which they are not inclined to do," he will soon be unable to discharge his duty.

On the death of Marmaduke at Newport the Society had granted payment of an additional half year's salary toward the completion of the education of his son Arthur, who was then a boy of about fourteen.

But the aged pastor was anxious to be released from the tasks which he had performed so well. On the 13th of July, 1772, he intimated to his parish his inability to preach any longer, and urged them to apply, with as little delay as possible, to the Venerable Society for another minister. In the minutes for October 9, 1772, he speaks of having to support his "ancient wife," "excusing himself through his infirmities for so late an acknowledgment of the Society's bounty to his Grandson." He is himself left "entirely dependent on the Society's Charity to support an ancient wife & himself, unable to help one another. Hitherto he has with difficulty kept the Church doors open, but can officiate no longer, having in a manner lost the use of his limbs."

While the church was seeking his successor a new trouble came to him and his declining health suffered a severe shock by the death of his wife on April 5, 1773. His friends prevailed on him, shortly after his wife's death, to make a journey to Cambridge, and visit his daughter, the wife of the Reverend Winwood Serjeant. But while there, he had an attack of apoplexy and expired on the 10th of June, 1773, in the seventy-fourth year of his age, and the thirty-seventh of his ministry. His remains were brought to Portsmouth and were deposited in the Wentworth tomb, in the graveyard of the church he had so long served.

The Reverend Edward Bass[1] (afterwards Bishop), of Newburyport, preached a funeral sermon from the words,—"Your Fathers,

[1] *The Life and Times of Edward Bass*, by Daniel Dulany Addison. Houghton, Mifflin, and Company, 1897.

where are they?" He said, "This man of God came into our Country a young man, soon after his entering into Holy Orders, and for more than forty years, with very little interruption he laboured in the work of the ministry, which he executed with great reputation, having been all along esteemed an excellent preacher and orator and a faithful parish minister."

Thus lived and died Arthur Browne, the first Episcopal minister settled in the province of New Hampshire. It may be said that he died at a good time. He was taken before all the accumulation of horrors brought on by the Revolution, in which he must doubtless have been a victim, for his prominent social position and his unswerving loyalty to his sovereign would have made him an object, as were so many others of his church, of the rancor and bitterness of the excited populace. He died when his fame was fully established, "full of years and honors."

In a letter under date of June 12, 1773, the Reverend Doctor Caner of Boston "informs the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel of the death of Mr. Browne of Portsmouth, who died on the 10th of June."

His character is given in the following quotation from a letter (church files) addressed by the bereaved church, July 2, 1773, to the Secretary of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts: "Good conduct, a most noble and benevolent disposition, excellent preaching, sound doctrines, and good oratory, were qualifications regularly exhibited, and ever conspicuous in our late faithful divine."

The *New-Hampshire Gazette and Historical Chronicle* of June 18, 1773, contains the following item under Portsmouth, June 17:

"On Thursday last in the Afternoon, died at Cambridge, and on Monday following was interr'd here, the Remains of the Rev'd Arthur Brown, the worthy Rector of the episcopal Church, in the 74th Year of his Age, and 36th of his Ministry in this Town; on

which Occasion a Sermon was preached in Queen's Chappel, by the Rev'd Mr. Bass of Newbury. . . . The Death of so respectable a Pastor, must to his Parishioners in particular, be a most affecting Stroke of Providence; his great Ability as a Divine, and eminent Preacher, are too well known to need any Enlargement. . . . And as to his moral Character, Hospitality, generous and universal Benevolence, were the most striking Ornaments of his Conduct in Life; his Death is universally lamented by all who had the Hapiness of his Acquaintance. . . . He was an affectionate Husband, a tender Parent, a generous Friend, a truly pious honest Man. . . . He has left two Sons, and four Daughters."

From an unpublished manuscript sketch by William Plumer (in possession of the New Hampshire Historical Society) is taken the following:

"Mr. Browne possessed a strong, active mind, improved by education. He was very attentive to his duties as a clergyman, and endeavored to promote the temporal as well as spiritual interests of the people of his charge. He sought for objects of poverty and distress among them, and exerted himself to procure their relief. His sermons were written with classical correctness, and delivered with manly eloquence. He was strongly attached to the ceremonies of the church, and observed them with scrupulous exactness. He claimed some prerogatives as a parson, which, though usual in the English church, had never been assumed by the other ministers here; this circumstance rendered him unpopular with the dissenters and caused them to charge him with bigotry. He was beloved by his parish, who lamented his death."

Reverend Charles Burroughs, D.D., was a native of Boston and a graduate of Harvard. He was the first settled pastor of St. John's Parish after the rebuilding of the church. For nearly half a century he was the centre of the social and literary life in Portsmouth. He originated the idea of the General Theological Library in Boston,

of which he was president for several years. In writing of Arthur Browne he says in part:

"In 1736, Mr. Browne came to reside here, and for thirty-seven years was the faithful, revered, and beloved pastor of the Episcopal church in this town, where his name and virtues are still held in grateful remembrance. His character, talents, and preaching were, through providence, eminently influential in giving strength and permanence to this church. His able and faithful care caused its roots to spread far and deep. Not the semblance of a stain rests upon his character. He commanded the respect, esteem, and confidence of all who knew him. Though living in troublous times, that involved powerful temptations to swerve from the plain path of rectitude, his elevated principles, sound sense, uncommon discretion, and generous and philanthropic spirit, enabled him to pursue a course that commanded the universal approbation of the virtuous and wise. He was a thorough theologian and an accurate scholar. His discourses were eminently instructive as well as impressive; as is proved not only by a uniform tradition, but by the few specimens which he gave to the world through the press. In controversy he held a vigorous pen, and evinced great directness, clearness, and logical acumen. He was a laborious and faithful missionary. He had a highly conservative mind, which kept him from the two extremes of latitudinarianism and enthusiasm. He combined, in a remarkable degree, firmness of opinion and purpose with kindness of heart; was highly respected and esteemed by all denominations, and is spoken of by those who have seen and heard him, as one rarely surpassed in dignity and influence."[1]

Little has been said of the literary attainments of Reverend Arthur Browne, but they were of a high order. Several of his sermons were printed in pamphlet form, at the request of his parishioners, and are among the books sought by collectors. One of his earlier

[1] Sprague's *Annals of the American Pulpit.*

sermons, on "The Excellency of the Christian Religion," printed by Kneeland and Green in Boston, 1748, did much to spread his fame as a preacher. One of the most valued of his sermons is "The Advantages of Unity," preached before St. John's Lodge of Masons in 1748. This is one of the earliest New Hampshire imprints, being printed by Daniel Fowle in Portsmouth, who had come from Boston and began printing in 1756. The following is a list of works published by Reverend Arthur Browne:

The Scripture Bishop Examined. Two letters by Arthur Browne. 1733. A copy is in the Diocesan Library, Cambridge, Massachusetts.

The Excellency of the Christian Religion Exhibited in a Sermon before the Episcopal Clergy of New England, Convened at Boston, and Preached at Christ Church, Sept. 20, 1738. . . . Published at the Request of Sundry of the Audience. Boston, N. E. Printed by S. Kneeland and T. Green, for N. Green, MDCCXXXVIII. Octavo, pp. (4), 20. Copies are in the New Hampshire Historical Society and the Shepley Library, Providence, Rhode Island.

Religious Education of Children Recommended, in a Sermon Preached in the Church at Portsmouth, December 27th 1739. Being the Day appointed for the Execution of Penelope Kenny. Boston: 1740. Octavo, pp. 21.

The Folly and Perjury of the Rebellion in Scotland Display'd. A Sermon preach'd at Portsmouth in New Hampshire February the 23d, 1745/6. . . . Published at the Desire of several of the Parishioners. Boston, N. E. Printed and sold by T. Fleet, at the Heart and Crown in Cornhill. 1746. 18mo.

The Advantages of Unity. A Sermon Preached in Portsmouth, New Hampshire, before the Right Worshipful Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons, on the 24th of June, 1748. Portsmouth, in New Hampshire. Printed by Daniel Fowle. Octavo, pp. 21.

Universal Love Recommended, in a Sermon before the Free Masons, in Trinity Church, Boston, 1st of October, 1755. Boston: Printed for J. & T. Leverett, M,DCC,LV. Quarto, pp. 27.

The Doctrine of Election Fairly Stated. In a Sermon Preached at Portsmouth, in New Hampshire. . . . Portsmouth: Printed and sold by Daniel Fowle, at his Printing-Office, M,DCC,LVII. Octavo, pp. 23.

The Necessity of Reformation in Order to Avert Impending Judgments. A Sermon preached at Portsmouth, in New Hampshire, May 6, 1757, Being the Annual Fast. . . . Published at the Request of the Hearers. Portsmouth: Printed and sold by Daniel Fowle, at his Printing-Office, M,DCC,LVII. Octavo, pp. 21.

Remarks on Dr. Mayhew's Incidental Reflections, Relative to the Church of England, as contained in his Observations on the Character, and Conduct of the Society. . . . By a Son of the Church of England. . . . Portsmouth. Printed and sold by D. Fowle, 1763. Quarto, pp. 31.

Chapter VI

Mrs. Mary Browne—Unpublished Letters

OF Mrs. Mary Browne, wife of the Reverend Arthur Browne, we know little save by her letters, some of which have fortunately been preserved by descendants of her family. These letters give an entertaining view not only of the social life of the period, but of her many interests and her home life and personality. The first two letters here given were sent to Reverend Marmaduke Browne of London by his cousin, Dora Littlejohn, the eldest granddaughter of the "Atty" mentioned (Lieutenant-Colonel Arthur Browne) by his second marriage, now in her eighty-fifth year. The present Reverend Marmaduke Edmonstone Browne has had the transcriptions made *verbatim et literatim*.

Mrs Mary Browne [*Mary Coxe*] *to her Son-in-law*
The Revd: Mr Sergeant at Dorchester near Charles-Town, South Carolina

Portsmouth. Octr: y^e^ 25th 1766.

My dearest Children

You will be so good as to excuse my writing to you both in one, as I 've not time to adress you seperate. having just heard of a Vessel bound from Boston to South Carolina and would not willingly miss any opportunity. Tho' you accuse me of neglect, I do assure you my Dear Children this is the first I have been tould of since I saw you, & was obligd to send my Letters by way of Philadelphia, I hope they came to hand.—I therein musterd what news was stiring and that your sister Livermore[1] had got another son named Arthur, a fine Boy. I went to the Christening, and your Father Baptiz'd seven

[1] "*Your sister Livermore.*" This was her 4th child & 2nd daughter, *Jane*, also referred to later: "*Jenny and family are well . . . so would poor Jenny.*" At the date of this letter Mrs Livermore was 32. (M. E. B.)

MRS. ARTHUR BROWNE

From a Portrait by Copley

Children, at Livermore's House, in time I hope they will have a Church at (?) Dury (?)[1] We have been in pleasing expectation of seeing you all summer. the People of Cambridge are quite impatiant for your coming. the Society have complyed with their request, and Mr Egar has left them. we suppose my D^r^ Polly's Circumstances has prevented your coming. I trust in God by this time she is safely deliverd, yet would not have you venture a Winters Voige on any account. we promise ourselves much pleasure and Happiness in having you settled at Cambridge and the People there say none will be so acceptable to them as Mr Sergeant, and will indevour to make all things agreeable. your Brother Duke[2] has been here since Saturday and returns next Monday. he left his Wife and all friends well at Newport. Nancy Bardine is married to one (?) Rite, of Providence, and Molly to Cap^n^ Mosely of Newport. both Good Husbands.

turn over

I 've had letters from Ireland. dated y^e^ 25th of June. thank God (?) Htty. and Nancy[3] were well in Dublin, at sister pains House all my relations and friends make much of them. sister Shekelton's Husband and oldest son are Dead, and sister Pains two sons that Lived in Dublin. she has onely (?) Tome: Lee Left and two Daughters. Peter admires England.[4] he is well and Happy at Woolwich with

[1] Londonderry, New Hampshire.

[2] "*Your Brother Duke . . . Duke sends his best affections.*" This refers to her 2nd son, Marmaduke, then 35. He was Rector of Trinity Church, Newport, Rhode Island. (M. E. B.)

[3] "*Thank God Atty and Nancy were well in Dublin.*" The name "Atty" (which I read first as "Htty") must refer to *Arthur*, her 8th child & 3rd son [my great-grandfather] who would have been about 23 at that date, and a Lieutenant in the 58th Regt: "Nancy" is evidently Ann, her 4th daughter, then 28, who had been married ten years before to Capt: G. St Loe, and who afterwards became Mrs Ashenhurst. (M. E. B.)

[4] "*Peter admires England.*" Peter was her youngest child, at this date 20 years of age. According to "Kane's List of the Officers of the Rl: Artillery," Peter had entered the R. A. in 1760, when just turned 14, as "Fireworker"; this explains his being "with General Williamson at Woolwich." (M. E. B.)

General Williamson.[1] I had Letters Last Post from Rogers & Betsy[2] she was much taken with every place she past through on her way to Mishilamachnac, and says that it is a fine pleasent Country and she wants for nothing but the Company of her Parents, and Bretheran. I wish she may always think so but fear she will alter her note when Winter sets in. She taulks of returning in summer and sends her Love thinking you are here.—Jenny and family are well, and would write did she know of this opportunity. My sister Gardner has been to see me, and tarried a fortnight she went home last Tuesday, ye waters at Connecticut has been of no service to her Husband.—as for news I 've but Little to send. Nither Marriges, nor Deaths. Since my Last Letter onely Sam: Wentworth of Boston, Dead. Mark Wentworth's son John is expected soon from England, to be our Governor, to the Great Mortification of the old one and his (?) Rib Patt. Mrs Purcel has got her fifth Daughter it makes Grigory Gran—Mrs Bambery has a nother Daughter. thank God your Father is at present in perfect Health, and begs youl excuse his not writing. and be assurd tis not for the want of tenderest Love regard and esteem, but says I can acquint you of all a fairs as from him. tho I think this a poor excuse and often tell him he will Loose all his friends through Laziness of answring their Letters.

be so good to present our best respects and regards to good Coll Smith, and Lady with thanks to them and all others that have shewd you friendship in a strange Land. I shall be glad should any opportunity offer to send some Apples to my Dearest Children or any thing that I thought would be agreeable. there is Letters from Hugh

[1] "*General Williamson.*" This was Gen: George Williamson, a first Cousin of Mary Browne. He & she were nephew & niece of Gen: Adam Williamson who was Lieutenant of the Tower of London from 1722 to 1741. George Williamson commanded the R. A. at the siege of Quebec, & it was through him that Mary Browne's two younger sons, Arthur & Peter, entered the R. A. George Williamson died in 1781. Peter's only son (Fellow of Trin: Coll: Cambridge, 1797 to 1843) was named George Adam, after him and his Uncle. (M. E. B.)

[2] "*Rogers and Betsy.*" Betsy was her 7th child & youngest daughter, Elizabeth, who was 25 at this date, and five years before (1761) had married Major R. Rogers. (M. E. B.)

Wentworth and Mr Badger. they put in at Londonderry in the North of Ireland and had not then seen my Children, y^e^ next Letters I expect some account. Col^l^ Mason and Lady are safe arrived in England. Mr Watts and Wife have saild from here six weeks: I wrote by them to General Williamson's Lady and to my Children — your Father unites in Blessing and Love to you and (?) Brabs (?) as we expect you have one beside Miss Nancy. Duke sends his best affections, as would poor Jenny were she here — all friends much at your service and daly inquiring when you will come, in particular Madam Brady, (?) Bust, and Miss (?) Nina.

I pray God send my Dear Children safe and well to the Armes of their most tender affectionate Mother

MARY BROWNE.

My Cough is much better.

Jess and (?) pomp send their Duty

Betty Tripe has Left me. I 've got a better Maid. pray write soon I long to hear from you

From Mrs. Mary Browne to the Rev. Winwood Sargent at Cambridge
To the care of Mr. John Bradford at Boston

Portsmouth April ye 24 [*or*, 27?] 1769

MY DEAREST CHILDREN

You must impute my not answering your agreeable favour by Mr Prentice, to want of opportunity — and not forgetfulness, or the sincerest and true affection, I shall always bear you, believe me. I have scarcely had a moments time to spare attending on Betsy for twelve weeks past, with her broken Breasts owing to sore Nipples, and could not bear them drawn, — her right was well a week, then the other began and was Lanced Last Thursday — but that one will not be so bad as the first. — The Child has got a Good

Nurse and growes a fine Boy — but my Dearest Polly need not fear his puting her Childs nose out of joint — there is a double tye there, and onely the Mothers side for Atty Rogers — but shall endivour to doe my Duty to the poor thing.

Duke got here a Thursday Night much fatigued and has been sick ever since with a foul stomach — he took a puke yesterday and thank God is much better. He says he left my Dear Polly very unwell with a bad Cold — which grives me to hear. I beg she will be carefull of herself and trust in a good God she will have a Happy and safe deliverance of a fine Boy. I long much for the pleasure of seeing you both — and purpose (God willing) to be with you some time in June, or sooner, if you set the time. — I cant say I purpose much pleasure to myself in this Visit of Dukes — I know the pain of parting to such a distance as England and Ireland is an overballance to the pleasure of meeting — and wish sincearly his affairs could be settled to his satisfaction without his taking such a Voyage. I hear the missing Transport is arrived, that had our Letters on Bord perhaps we may have some account from Atty to prevent Dukes going. — I have the pleasure to acquint you that Livermore is Coming to Live in this Town. — Claggett, with his wife, Children, and Hariott Mitchell, are going for England, Livermore has got his post of Kings Attorney, and bought his House. —

We have heard Nothing Lately from Major Rogers, tis high time there was some news from England, with His Majesty's Decision of the Trial, Jonston and Gage are such enemies to Rogers I am much afraid he will have but Little recompence for his sufferings. — Molly Appleton, poor Creature, Died in London of a fever — and has Left her a very poor Widow, with four Children. the poor Major will have them all to mintain, beside (?) Hake's Wife, and Children, and Beck, Likely to stick on hand. Purcel has got a nother Daughter, Mrs Hall, Mrs Levious, — Mrs Cutt and Cutter, sons. —

We have had some of the Boston officers and Thurty soldiers here to carry of three disserters. your father married Captn Panseby Moulsworth to Mrs Sheffe. — I am mad with the Blockheds, for having any thing to say to the Boston Yankyes, that hate them so. — and Mr Moulsworth is a very pretty Man, and of a Grand family in Ireland. the (? they) taulk still of a match between Daniel Peirce and Caty Moffett, (?) Hitty and Billy Knight. — my best respects wait on Madam Borland her son and Daughter — tell them their friends here are very well. Compliments to all the Cambridge Gentry, with Love to Brother and Sister Gardner, when you see them — and Captn Bradford, ye Lady their Mother was at Church yesterday pritty well. I am much obliged to my Dearest Polly for the great regard she expresses to the small token of my Love — wish it was in my power to send some thing of Value — I have been uneasy I could not find an opportunity to send the Pot of Plumbs — I have them still very good if she can put me in a way to send them. — I beg youl be so good as to write to your Brothers and Sister in Ireland, it will Look Unkind to neglect it, and they are deserving of your Love.—

thanks to the Almighty your Father has had no Complaint of the Gravil since we ware at your House, and is otherwise in Good Health — he sends his Blessing and best affections — (?) Jake [*or*, Take ?] Mr. Livermore[1] and Betsy their Love and best wishes Betsy is much obliged for the pretty Lappets — my Love to Miss Nancy. — tell Sally her friends are well, but Thorp is Growne a sad beat Wife and turnd out from being Sexton. — all happiness and Bless-

[1] See notes to the preceding letter of October, 1766, in reference to the names *Livermore*, *Duke*, *Atty*, *Betsy*, *Major Rogers*, & *Jenny*. The "*Brothers and Sister in Ireland*" mentioned were Arthur (Atty), Peter, and Ann (Mrs. St. Loe).

"*Atty Rogers*" is evidently the new baby of her daughter Elizabeth (Betsy), named after his uncle Arthur.

"*Polly*" is her 5th child & 3rd daughter, married in 1765 to Mr. Sergeant (spelled "*Sargent*" in the letter of 1766).

ings, attend my Dear Children shall ever be the constant prayers — of your ever sincearly affectionate tender Mother

MARY BROWNE.

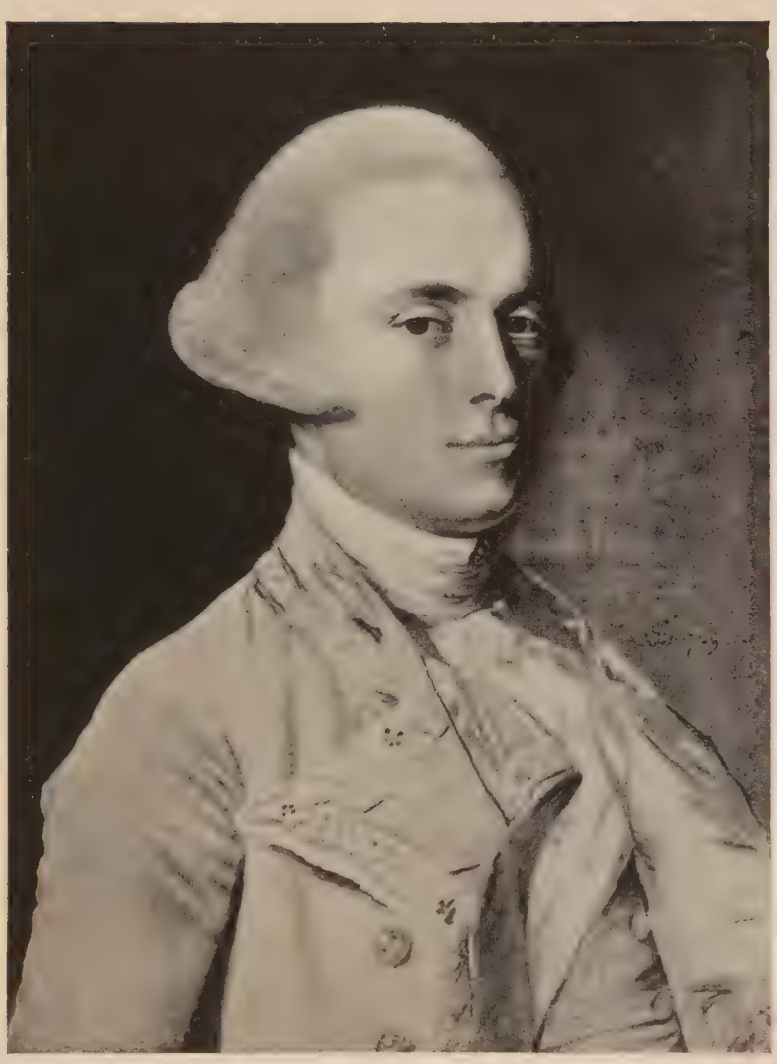
The following letter of the wife of the Reverend Arthur Browne was written to her son-in-law, Mr. Winwood Serjeant, the husband of her daughter Mary (the "Polly" of the letter), and having been preserved among his papers, passed into the possession of his daughter Eliza. Since her death the papers which she left have belonged to her first cousin, Dora Littlejohn, by whom this letter was given, with several other interesting old documents, to Marmaduke E. Browne, who has transcribed it here with its quaint spelling unaltered.

Of course the "Cambridge" of the letter is not the English University town, but the town adjoining Boston, on the river Charles, which bears that name. The Governor mentioned is Benning Wentworth, who was governor of New Hampshire from 1741 to 1767, when he was succeeded by his nephew, John Wentworth. The brother to whom she sends her "best affections" must be the husband of the sister who went out with them to America; it cannot be her own brother, the Reverend Marmaduke Cox, for he remained always in Ireland.

July y^e 22^d^, [1771]

MY DEAR SIR,

Polly received yours yesterday, dated from Captain Bradford's — and is glad to hear you are well and is much obliged that you have not Limited her to any time tho she is desirous to see you full as much as you do her and was fully determined upon going next week — but as she finds you will not hurry her, inclines to stay till the week after — and her Father has given her some incouragement that we will accompany her, provided you can accommodate us with Lodgings in your House — but don't Let us put you to any diffi-



GOVERNOR JOHN WENTWORTH

From a Pastel by Copley

culty as your not yet well settle'd — acquint [*sic*] us in time we May as well delay going till Polly has been home to put her House in order. You must excuse her not writing, her Thumb continues sore — she begs you will Look out for a good Maid, and hopes the Boy is come from Rhode Island.

I wrote you Last Monday by Miss Wendoll. She was to Lave it at Captn Bradfords. Since which I have nothing new to acquint you — the People here at present are busily employed in preparing entertainments for the Governor and appear to be in greater anxiety to get some nice rearaty [*sic*] than for a pleace in Paradice. People often act against there reason to be in Vogue with their polite Cotemporaries. Polly and I were invited to two out of Town, but we went to Nither. Your Dear Ally is well and growes finely — he will Lave his Mama, to come to Me, when I sing ring tee ding. My Love to your Daughter — I expected her here — tell my Sister she must come soon if I dont go to Cambridge. My best affections to her and Brother. Mr Browne presents you his Love and Blessing — Polly her Dutyfull best affections — we all Long to see you and none more than Dear Sir your most affte Mother

MARY BROWNE.

Compliments to Captn Bradford, and all friends.

To the Revd Mr Serjeant att Cambridge.
pr favour of Mrs Bradford.

The *New-Hampshire Gazette and Historical Chronicle* of April 9, 1773, contains the following item under date of Portsmouth, April 9:

"On Monday last between one and two o'clock died here, after a lingering and painful Indisposition, Mrs. MARY BROWNE, Consort of the Reverend Mr. ARTHUR BROWNE. Her Funeral is to be on this Day, the Procession to move from the House precisely at Four o'clock."

Chapter VII

Marmaduke and Lucy Browne

NINE children blessed the union of Arthur Browne and Mary Cox. Tracing their lineage to the present time we find that many of their descendants have been leaders in different lines of the world's progress. Through their marriages they connect Arthur Browne and his descendants with some of the great families of early New England, with men and women of more than the average of intelligence and enterprise. So, it may not be amiss, in connection with this story of old New England social life, to follow the fortunes of some of these descendants and their allied families.

Thomas, the eldest son, was born in Dublin, Ireland, in 1728 (?), and died in Portsmouth, New Hampshire, about 1740.

Marmaduke, the second son of this union, was born in 1731 at Providence, and after passing his childhood in New England, went to Ireland, spending four years at Trinity College. He was admitted to the degree of Bachelor of Arts on February 16, 1754. Before his graduation plans had been made for the future of this son, for the minutes of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts, under date of December 20, 1754, show that after hearing a letter from the Churchwardens and Vestry of Providence Plantations, dated January 16, 1754, asking for the appointment of the son of the Reverend Arthur Browne (then a student in Dublin University) as their minister, when admitted into holy orders: "Young Mr. Browne presented himself to the committee and producing a Testimonial under the Seal of the University of Dublin dated the 8th day of April 1754 of his having resided for four years last past and followed his studies with diligence and behaved well and taken and completed the degree of Batchelour of Arts on the 16 day of February last,—it was thereupon agreed to recommend to the So-

ciety that Mr. Brown be appointed Missionary to the Church of Providence in the room of Mr. Checkley, & recommended to the Lord Bishop of London for Holy Orders if he shall be found worthy."

After being duly ordained by the Bishop, Marmaduke Browne was assigned to the church at Providence as missionary. But as Reverend Arthur Browne was the only minister of the Church of England in the Province, his son expressed a desire to be appointed under his father as itinerant missionary to New Hampshire. The Society accordingly voted to remove him to Portsmouth and to allow the same salary he was to receive at Providence, viz., £50 per annum, a new missionary being provided for Providence. Reverend Marmaduke arrived at Newport, Rhode Island, in the fall of 1755, in company with Doctor McSparran, who had been assigned to Providence, and after a stormy voyage of fifty-eight days, began immediately after landing "to enter upon the Duties of his Mission which he trusts he shall do to the honour of God and the satisfaction of the Venerable Society."[1]

During the absence of Reverend Arthur Browne in Boston to attend to the duties of Doctor Cutler who was dying, Reverend Marmaduke attended to the Queen's Chapel duties as well as his own as missionary. In a letter written while on one of his journeys and recorded in the Society's minutes for September 5, 1757, he is "sorry that he cannot return better reports of his success. The Province of New Hampshire is a frontier against the French, & the major part of the Members of the Church of England live in the frontier towns of it and are in such constant apprehension of the Enemy that they employ their whole time towards their immediate safety. Nevertheless Mr. Brown has made them several Visits not without great danger. In the last half year he has baptized eleven white children."

[1] Minutes, S. P. G., November 18, 1755.

Urgent appeals from Christ Church, Boston, for aid from Mr. Browne are recorded in 1758, and he expressed his willingness to help them, but awaited the Society's directions. The Society, however, felt that he could not be spared from his mission. At this time, however, Reverend Marmaduke was afflicted with trouble with his eyes, which lasted a year and for a short time disqualified him for field service, although a letter of Reverend Arthur Browne in October, 1759, reports his son's recovery, and that notwithstanding his infirmity the duties of his mission were not neglected.

In 1760 the church at Newport, Rhode Island, lost their missionary, Mr. Pollen, through resignation, and asked the Society to send them another: "Since which they have received a very good character of the Rev: Marmaduke Browne; and have heard him Preach in their Church to the satisfaction of the Congregation, they therefore humbly beg the Society to appoint that Gentleman to their Mission. They hope to be quite happy in Mr. Brown's Ministry, and promise to give him a salary of £50 p. ann: and a Glebe, together with a donation of £100 Currency pr. ann: all which they gave Mr. Pollen, & they promise likewise to comply with every other stipulation they have laid themselves under to the Society."

In October, 1760, a letter from Reverend Mr. Caner, Minister of the King's Chapel, in Boston, stated that "as Mr. Pollen proposed to quit the Mission of Newport in a few days, the People had pitched upon Mr. Brown to succeed him if the Society should concur with their wishes. . . . He expects that a good harmony will subsist between Mr. Brown and the People of Newport as he is well known to them, has been some years in the Country, & is become well acquainted with the customs & manners of it. Mr. Caner likewise says that Mr. Brown's conduct in his present Mission has been unexceptionably prudent, and his abilities qualify him to be usefull among a people of higher improvements than those with whom he now resides: besides as he is a married man with an

encreasing Family he is not able to support himself with decency upon his salary of £50 only, the people to whom he officiates being exceedingly poor, new Setlers, exposed to the Enemy, & not able to contribute to his better support."

A letter from Marmaduke himself is in almost the same words, requesting to be Mr. Pollen's successor, "being induced to do so on account of the extreme poverty of his present people, and the difficulty of supporting a growing family &c."

In December, 1760, Reverend Marmaduke Browne was appointed to the mission at Newport with a salary of £50 per annum. Before notice of this had been received he had written again to ask for the place, at the same time acquainting them with the fact that at the urgent request of the congregation of Rhode Island he had taken eight journeys of 140 miles each within the year, and hopes that the Society "will not censure his proceedings, as that Church with the blessing of God continues to flourish."

Under the care of Reverend Marmaduke Browne the Church was even more flourishing, as is shown by two entries in the minutes of the Society for 1763–64, given below:

"9 *January* 1763. . . . His Mission is in so flourishing a way that severel Gentlemen have come to a Resolution to enlarge the Church very considerably with the expense of at least £500." He adds that at the instance of the late Dr. Bray he has opened a school for the "Instruction of Negroe Children, to consist of thirty (fifteen of each sex) which is to be under his Inspection & which he trusts will answer the Intentions of the Charitable Persons concerned in it. In the last half of last year he has baptized one Black & fourteen White Children, one White and one Black Adult, & has had an addition of five Communicants, making in the whole one hundred and nine."

"29 *August* 1763. . . . He has the satisfaction to inform the Society that 46 Pews have been added to the Church and the building compleatly finished, which is one of the largest Places of pub-

lick worship in New England, being 90 feet in Length & 46 in Breadth. The addition was so much wanted that the Church appears equally full in its present enlarged state as it did before: The Expense of this improvement amounting to at least £600 sterling." [An application for the appointment of a Schoolmaster follows here, Mr. Kay having given a donation for that purpose.] "Agreeably to the Society's Instructions he sends an exact account of the present state of the Mission to Newport. There are in the Town of Newport between 7000 & 8000 Inhabitants white and black, of these about 900 souls are of the Church of England, of which 120 are actual Communicants. The rest are divided into the following sects viz. Congregationalists or Independents, three sorts of Baptists, Quakers, Moravians, and a number of Jews who have lately erected a Synagogue. Among the Christian Sectaries scarce one half have been baptized. Profess'd Unbelievers are not common, but practical ones are very numerous. From January 1763 to the date of this letter he has baptized after proper Instruction two White & two Black Adults, & twenty White & four Black Children."

"29*th February* 1764. . . . Notwithstanding the enlargement of the Church room is still wanting to accommodate all who would willingly attend. He observes with pleasure that in this Colony a good harmony subsists between the Church & Dissenters and prejudices decrease. The Quakers in particular express their regard for the Church from the experience they have of the mildness and Lenity of its Administration. He adds that he lives in the greatest harmony with his numerous Parishioners who are constant and decent in their attendance on the publick Worship and unblameable in their lives except in their backwardness in coming to the Holy Communion by reason of some prejudices early imbibed. In the preceding year he has baptized twenty-five Infants, one Black and one White Adult well prepared. Communicants 120."

July 1, 1766, he reports himself as "constantly engaged in a

succession of Parochial Duty as much as he is well able to struggle with, & has the comfort to observe that much good is done here notwithstanding the licentious Turn of the Colony in general & the numberless Sects into which it is divided. A Colony where the Publick Worship is so far from being supported that all Contracts for the support of Ministers are null & void, a Colony of profess'd Christians where not above one third Inhabitants are admitted into the Christian Church by Baptism, or think the ordinance necessary. Mr. Browne in the preceding half year has baptized twenty Infants & received an addition of four Communicants, one of them a Negro Man who behaves in a manner truly exemplary & praiseworthy. His communicants in the whole amount to one hundred and twenty of whom seven are Blacks who behave in a manner becoming the profession they make."

Before leaving England in 1755, Reverend Marmaduke Browne had married, at Bristol, Miss Anne Franklin, an English lady of considerable wealth, and distinguished for her amiability of manner and earnest piety. She died in Newport, Rhode Island, on January 6, 1767. In December of that year the Reverend Marmaduke wrote to the Society, informing them of the arrival of Mr. Bissett as master of Mr. Kay's Grammar School, and asked for leave of absence to visit Ireland "to compromise an affair of great consequence which has been depending these four years & which he fears cannot be settled without his personal appearance." The leave was granted, but Reverend Marmaduke did not use it until late in 1769, when he went to Dublin and arranged for his son's entry to the University, the Newport congregation consenting and paying his salary during his absence. Returning to his Newport charge, Mr. Browne continued his ministrations until failing health caused him to suspend them. In the records of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel for December 14, 1770, concerning the Bray Negro School of which he was Visitor, there is a letter from him, written

after his return from Ireland, in which he speaks of his illness, "a slow fever brought on by the fatigue of a long and disagreeable voyage of eleven weeks." He died in March, 1771. A brief item under date of "New-Port, March 18," in the *New-Hampshire Gazette and Historical Chronicle* of March 29, 1771, recorded the event in these words:

"On Saturday Morning, the 16th Inst. departed this Life, after a long and lingering Illness, in the 40th Year of his Age, the Rev'd Mr. MARMADUKE BROWN, Minister of Trinity-Church, in this Place; most sincerely and deservedly lamented by his Congregation, and all who had the Pleasure of his Acquaintance."

Another notice in the same paper, under date of April 19, 1771, gives this account of the funeral:

"On Thursday Afternoon last, the Remains of the Rev. Mr. MARMADUKE BROWNE, (whose Death was mentioned in our last) were attended to Trinity-Church, where an excellent and most pathetic Discourse was delivered by the Rev. Mr. BISSETT, to a very crowded Audience, from Psalm 90th, 12th Verse, 'So teach us to Number our Days, that we may apply our Hearts unto Wisdom;' after which the Funeral Solemnity was closed by the Rev. Mr. USHER of Bristol.—The Tears of his bereaved Flock, on this mournful Occasion, manifested the just Sense they entertained of their deceased Pastor, and their own inexpressible Loss."

In the year 1795 a tablet was erected to the memory of Marmaduke Browne by his son, Arthur Browne, which is now to be seen on the wall of Trinity Church at Newport—it is of marble; has a likeness of Mr. Browne on the top, in basso-relievo;[1] and bears these lines:

Heu quanto minus est,
Cum aliis versari,
Quam tui meminisse!

[1] Above is the coat of arms of the Marquis of Sligo.

which might be translated, "Alas, how much less is the pleasure I take in associating with others than I find in remembering thee!"

Lucy Browne, the first daughter of Reverend Arthur Browne and his wife, was born in Portsmouth about 1733. On February 25, 1750, she was married to Colonel William Smith of the British Army, who soon afterward left this country to join his regiment. In the autumn of that year Lucy accompanied her father to England, and went to South Wales, where her husband was stationed on military duty. Here she made her home with him until her death, which occurred in 1770.

Chapter VIII

Arthur Browne—The Scholar

THE only son of Reverend Marmaduke and Anne (Franklin) Browne was Arthur, born in 1756 at Newport, Rhode Island. At the age of about eleven his mother died, and the boy and his sisters were no doubt taken care of (at least for a time) by their aunt Mary and her husband, the Reverend Winwood Serjeant, whose clerical charge was at Cambridge, Massachusetts, for his grandparents were too old and infirm to assume this additional burden. According to Waterhouse the youth attended the grammar school founded by Dean Berkeley, then kept by a learned German named Knotchel, where he was a classmate of Gilbert Stuart, the famous painter. He and his relatives were alike anxious that he should have a college education. Accordingly, after his father's death, the lad of fourteen wrote the following extraordinary letter to Mr. John Bours, senior warden of his father's former charge, Trinity Church, Newport, Rhode Island, under date of Portsmouth, May 16, 1771:

Portsmouth, May 16th, 1771.

DEAR MR. BOURS:

It seems to me most proper to write to you concerning the following affair, both as Church Warden, and as being one of my best friends. My Grandfather declines drawing upon the Society, and thinks it would be best for the gentlemen who are Church Wardens, not to draw, but to write to the Society, informing them of my father's death, of his leaving me wholly unprovided for, by which means there was a great chance of my losing a liberal education at home, whither my father designed to send me. He says I may be pretty sure, if those gentlemen would be so kind as to

ARTHUR BROWNE LL.D

late Prime Serjeant of Ireland and Senior

Fellow of Trinity College Dublin

write [*obliterated*] of the Society's doing something handsome for me, especially if they would represent me in as favorable a light as they think proper, as a lad of some merit, who, if properly encouraged, might turn out something.

These are his words, not mine; for not all the vanity natural to man should induce me to write thus of myself, were it not his direction. I know your friendship will excuse this trouble, which, notwithstanding after having troubled you so often, I am to give you, and I hope poor Peter was recovered before you got home. My love to Mrs. Bours.

I receiv'd Mr. Sam Bours' kind letter, and found that I must chuse a guardian as he says. I hope poor Mrs. Bours has had no more ill turns. My compliments to all friends. My Grandfather and all the family join with me in love to you and Mrs. Bours, and believe me always, your affectionate,

humᵇ Servant,

ARTHUR BROWNE.[1]

The Society for the Propagation of the Gospel helped on the lad's ambition by a vote on July 19, 1771, "That Mr. (Marmaduke) Brown's salary be paid up to Lady Day last, and That half a year's salary be given to his Son to assist him in his education." He entered Harvard College in 1771, but left it after a short residence, due to the change in family affairs caused by the death of his parents.

The Matriculation Book of Trinity College, Dublin, shows that Arthur Browne was entered there on March 24, 1772. If the religious societies which had helped him had the idea that he would follow in the footsteps of his grandfather and his father and enter the ministry, they were disappointed, for after taking his Master's degree and becoming Senior Fellow, Senior Proctor, Doctor of Civil Law, and King's Professor in Greek, he turned his attention to the

[1] From Mason's *Annals of Trinity Church, Newport, Rhode Island*, pp. 145, 146.

law. It is said that if he had outlived the Provost, he would have been President of Dublin University.

A biographical sketch of Arthur Browne, by a classmate, published in *The Monthly Anthology* for November, 1805, quotes from a Dublin paper an article published in the *London Morning Chronicle* after the death of Dr. Browne, in which tribute is paid to him as the representative of Dublin University in the Irish Parliament and House of Commons, in these words:

"'He was a professed enemy to the abuse of power, and always stood forward, the champion of the people, when measures were proposed in the house of commons which he conceived injurious to their rights or prejudicial to their interests. He detested bigotry — it was a monster incompatible with civil or religious liberty, and he despised all who worshipped it.

"'Shortly after the Union, Dr. Browne was appointed Prime Serjeant, and [it] is supposed, had he survived much longer, he would have obtained a situation on the Bench.

"'He was one of the Senior Fellows and Senior Proctor of Trinity College, a Doctor of Civil Laws, King's Professor of Greek, &c. &c. For a length of time he held the Vicar-Generalship of the Diocese of Kildare, and also practiced in the courts as an eminent, although not a leading, Barrister.

"'He was unanimously elected to the command of the College corps when it was formed in 1797, and appeared about a month ago on parade, for the last time.

"'Dr. Browne was a native of America, which country he left at an early age, and it is reasonable to imagine, from his situations in the College, and his exertions as a lawyer, that he died possessed of considerable property.'

"Of the works of Dr. Browne that have come to our knowledge, we may enumerate, 1st, *A compendious view of the Civil Law, being the substance of a course of lectures, read in the University of Dublin,*

by Arthur Browne, Esq. Senior Fellow of Trinity College, and Professor of Civil Law in that University, and Representative in Parliament for the same; together with a sketch of the practice of the Ecclesiastical Courts, with some cases determined therein in Ireland, and some useful directions for the Clergy.

"2d. *Hussen O'Dil, or Beauty and the Heart; an allegorical poem, translated from the Persian language.* This appears to have been an exercise in the hours of relaxation from severer studies. From Dr. Browne's remarks on Sir William Jones's Persian grammar, he appears to have paid no small attention to this oriental language.

"3d. *Miscellaneous Sketches*, in 2 volumes, 8vo. These are written after the manner of Montaigne, and are modestly called *Hints for Essays*.[1] Of these we shall here after select one for the gratification of the readers of the *Anthology* without any apology for the solemnity of the subject. W."[2]

Dr. Browne's works are now among the rarities sought by book collectors, and bring high prices, especially rare being the *Miscellaneous Sketches*, London, 1798. That work is written in a graceful style, and his picture of America, with his accompanying notes, is a valuable contribution to history. It was reprinted in the *Rhode Island Historical Magazine* for January, 1886. One of his sketches, "Irish Literature," appeared in the *Literary Miscellany* for 1907, and others were in various periodicals, showing a powerful intellect at work. That he might have exerted a great influence upon the literature of his country is indicated by his writings, which ceased too prematurely. He was seized with a dropsical trouble, and after a short illness, died in Dublin, in 1805, closing a career of usefulness and honor at the age of fifty.

[1] Of this rare work a copy may be seen in the Shepley Library, Providence, Rhode Island.

[2] Benjamin Waterhouse, M.D., American physician and author, 1754–1846.

Chapter IX

Jane Browne and the Livermores

IT is through the marriage of Jane Browne, the fourth child of Reverend Arthur Browne, that we are introduced to some of the most interesting characters of the great families of early Portsmouth. Jane Browne was born in Providence in 1734. She was married to Samuel Livermore by her father, on September 23, 1759.

Samuel Livermore was of one of the Portsmouth families attendant at Queen's Chapel, and therefore of high social standing. An interesting monograph on Livermore by Judge Charles R. Corning, the New Hampshire historian, says of him: "The year after coming to Portsmouth he married a daughter of the Rev. Arthur Browne, a clergyman of the Established Church. By this alliance he was admitted into the best society of the town." He became a warden in Queen's Chapel, practised law, and rose to professional eminence. In 1767, Livermore accepted the position of King's Attorney from Governor John Wentworth, his close friend. But troublous times arose, and we find him with his family in Holderness, New Hampshire, and there he remained during the most critical years of the Revolution. On his one thousand acre farm he erected an imposing manor-house, where he kept open hospitality until his death. Here Whigs, Tories, and doubtful minds used to gather to discuss the state of public affairs. He kept on the best of terms with all parties and was looked up to as the father of the town.

It is too long a story — "The Birth of Our Nation" — to talk about in this brief sketch. But at the critical time in our history Livermore quit his farm and took up the intricate and difficult affairs of his day; and, to continue in the words of Judge Corning: "While his services as Attorney-General, delegate to Congress, and Chief-

JANE BROWNE

From a Painting by Copley

Justice, had been conspicuous, it was reserved to him, as a member of the Convention of 1788, to give the full measure of his abilities toward ratifying the Constitution of the young nation. In 1793 the legislature elected him a senator and he took his seat at the commencement of the Third Congress. He entered the Senate a well-equipped public man whose opinions stood high, and whose abilities in many positions of trust and responsibility gave him a distinction throughout the Union. As in the House, Livermore speedily came to the front, and when he had been in the Senate two years he was chosen President pro tem. of that body. He continued in the Senate until 1801, when ill health compelled him to resign.

"Since 1765 Samuel Livermore had been a public servant, a period so long that the annals of New Hampshire may be challenged for its equal. Honest, intelligent, and incorruptible, he honored the offices he held. In the light beating upon him, he stands forth in all the true grandeur of American manhood, a central figure in that host composed of Washington, Franklin, Adams, Madison, Henry, Hamilton, Morris, and their immortal contemporaries."

He died in the manor-house in Holderness, New Hampshire, May 18, 1803, in the seventy-second year of his age. Jane Browne, his wife, died February 2, 1802, aged six-seven.

Five children were born to Samuel and Jane (Browne) Livermore — Edward St. Loe, born at Portsmouth, 1762; George Williamson, born at Londonderry, 1764; Arthur, born at Londonderry, 1766; Elizabeth, born at Londonderry, 1768, and Samuel Livermore, 2d, who was born at Holderness in 1783. Edward St. Loe Livermore studied and practised law at Portsmouth, and was an associate justice of the New Hampshire Superior Court from 1797 to 1799. Later he removed to Massachusetts, representing the Essex district for two terms in Congress. Arthur, who lived on the Holderness place, also went to Congress.

Edward St. Loe Livermore had three children, Samuel, Caro-

line, and Harriet. The last-named became one of the famous characters of New England history. She was born at Portsmouth in 1782, and early in life showed unusual gifts as a vocalist and as a pulpit orator. Whittier has immortalized her in his poem "Snow-Bound, a Winter Idyll," in a prefatory note to which he wrote:

"The 'not unfeared, half-welcome guest' was Harriet Livermore, daughter of Judge Livermore, of New Hampshire, a young woman of fine natural ability, enthusiastic, eccentric, with slight control over her violent temper, which sometimes made her religious profession doubtful. She was equally ready to exhort in school-house prayer-meetings and dance in a Washington ball-room, while her father was a member of Congress. She early embraced the doctrine of the Second Advent, and felt it her duty to proclaim the Lord's speedy coming. With this message she crossed the Atlantic and spent the greater part of a long life in travelling over Europe and Asia. She lived some time with Lady Hester Stanhope, a woman as fantastic and mentally strained as herself, on the slope of Mt. Lebanon, but finally quarrelled with her in regard to two white horses with red marks on their backs which suggested the idea of saddles, on which her titled hostess expected to ride into Jerusalem with the Lord. A friend of mine found her, when quite an old woman, wandering in Syria with a tribe of Arabs, who with the Oriental notion that madness is inspiration, accepted her as their prophetess and leader. At the time referred to in 'Snow-Bound' she was boarding at the Rocks Village about two miles from us."

In the poem he has given a wonderful picture of the religious devotee, in the lines:

> Another guest that winter night
> Flashed back from lustrous eyes the light.
>
> Unmarked by time, and yet not young,
> The honeyed music of her tongue

And words of meekness scarcely told
A nature passionate and bold,
Strong, self-concentred, spurning guide,
Its milder features dwarfed beside
Her unbent will's majestic pride.
She sat among us, at the best,
A not unfeared, half-welcome guest,
Rebuking with her cultured phrase
Our homeliness of words and ways.
A certain pard-like, treacherous grace
  Swayed the lithe limbs and dropped the lash,
  Lent the white teeth their dazzling flash;
  And under low brows, black with night,
  Rayed out at times a dangerous light;
The sharp heat-lightnings of her face
Presaging ill to him whom Fate
Condemned to share her love or hate.
  A woman tropical, intense
  In thought and act, in soul and sense,
  She blended in a like degree
  The vixen and the devotee,
  Revealing with each freak or feint
The temper of Petruchio's Kate,
  The raptures of Siena's saint.[1]
Her tapering hand and rounded wrist
Had facile power to form a fist;
The warm, dark languish of her eyes
Was never safe from wrath's surprise.
Brows saintly calm and lips devout
Knew every change of scowl and pout;
And the sweet voice had notes more high
And shrill for social battle-cry.

Since then what old cathedral town
Has missed her pilgrim staff and gown,

[1] St. Catherine of Siena, who is represented as having wonderful visions. She made a vow of silence for three years.

What convent-gate has held its lock
Against the challenge of her knock!
Through Smyrna's plague-hushed thoroughfares,
Up sea-set Malta's rocky stairs,
Gray olive slopes of hills that hem
Thy tombs and shrines, Jerusalem,
Or startling on her desert throne
The crazy Queen of Lebanon[1]
With claims fantastic as her own,
Her tireless feet have held their way;
And still, unrestful, bowed, and gray,
She watches under Eastern skies,
  With hope each day renewed and fresh,
  The Lord's quick coming in the flesh,
Whereof she dreams and prophesies!"

Miss Livermore seems to have inherited the spirituality of the Reverend Arthur Browne and the high temper of Samuel Livermore, together with some of the fine mental powers of both. At the time of this narrative she was about twenty-eight years old.

To-day, in "Woman's Era," we should not even hear a suggestion of "mentally strained." Harriet Livermore would fit in her niche in the world's great work with the other educational leaders of to-day calling for God from out the skies. When, in January, 1827, while her father was a member of Congress, she preached in Washington before President John Quincy Adams and other dignitaries, the propriety of a woman's appearing in the public eye so prominently was widely discussed. Since that day a woman has occupied a seat in the Senate of the United States. The "American *mejunneh*,"—"the Yankee crazy woman,"—as she was called in the Orient, still lives in memory as one of those who have acquired fame and leadership through religious frenzy.

[1] An interesting account of Lady Hester Stanhope, an English gentlewoman, who led a singular life on Mount Lebanon in Syria, will be found in Kinglake's *Eothen*, chapter viii.

Chapter X

Mary and Anne Browne

MARY BROWNE, the fifth child of Reverend Arthur Browne, was born at Providence in 1736. She was married in Portsmouth, October 31, 1765, to the Reverend Winwood Serjeant, the ceremony being performed by her father. Reverend Mr. Serjeant, a widower, was ordained in England, and for a time settled in St. George's Parish, Dorchester, near Charleston, South Carolina. In the summer of 1767 he entered upon new duties as missionary of the church at Cambridge, Massachusetts. He was urged to take the vacancy in the Portsmouth church caused by the death of his father-in-law, but declined to leave his own charge. The rising tide of the Revolution, however, drove him out, and in February, 1775, he was made chaplain of a ship in Boston Harbor, while his church was used as barracks for soldiers. In 1778 he went to Bristol, England, broken in health from an attack of paralysis suffered the year before, which caused his death on the third of September, 1780. His slender fortune, diminished during his illness, left Mary (Browne) Serjeant in financial straits. She appealed to the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel, in the following letter:

19 *October* 1780

The Most Rev: & Hon: the Archbishop of Canterbury
and other Members of the Hon: Society for &c &c.

HON: & REV: GENTLEMEN — The Memorial and Petition of Mary Serjeant, relict of the Rev: Winwood Serjeant, late Missionary at Cambridge in New England of the Venerable Society for the Propagation of the Gospel &c:

Humbly sheweth

That Mr Serjeant departed this life at Bath Sept: 3 1780 after

labouring more than three years under a paralytic disorder occasioned by the severities imposed on him in Boston by the Rebels to punish him for his Zeal and steady attachment to the Church and King of Great Britain.

That Mr Serjeant left your Petitioner with two small children after a long and expensive sickness, and the death of her only son, greatly in debt, without money, to seek their bread from the Charity of the Benevolent in this hospitable Island where distress is no sooner known than removed:

That from this general character of Britons and the Hon: Society in particular, whose Missionary Mr Serjeant was, your Petitioner hopes and humbly implores the Venerable Board to bestow so much of their wonted goodness & generosity upon the miserable widow and orphans of a once faithful and now happy Missionary as their wisdom may direct,

and as in duty bound will ever pray

MARY SERJEANT.

Westminster, Eaton Street No. 19.
Oct: 19 1780

Reference to the S. P. G. Journals shows that at the meeting of the Committee on October 20, 1780, "The Secretary having laid before the Committee a letter from Dr Chandler recommending three Widows, it was Agreed to submit it to the attention of the Society. . . . Resolved . . . that a gratuity of £10 be allowed to Mrs. Serjeant."

Anne Browne, the sixth child of the Reverend Arthur Browne and his wife, was born at Portsmouth, New Hampshire, February 24, 1738. Her marital experiences were unfortunate. She was married, first, on February 9, 1756, to Captain George St. Loe of the British Navy, from whom she was divorced. She then went to Ireland and married again, in 1767, Captain Ashenhurst, of the Black Horse, by whom she had three children: Anna Maria, who mar-

MRS. GEORGE ST. LOE

From a Painting by Blackburn

ried Colonel Charles Douglas; a son, in the Royal Navy, who died; and another daughter. After the death of her second husband she married, thirdly, a Mr. Kelley, "of reckless character, who treated her with the utmost neglect." She died about 1819.[1]

[1] Sprague's *Annals*.

Chapter XI

Robert Rogers, "the Ranger," and His Descendants

ON June 30, 1761, Major Robert Rogers married Elizabeth Browne, youngest and most beautiful daughter of Reverend Arthur Browne, first rector of Queen's Chapel, Portsmouth. Her father performed the marriage ceremony. The bride was dressed in white satin with laces, the same gown in which she sat for her portrait by Joseph Blackburn. There were present on this occasion many stately dames, Copley's living pictures; and gentlemen, too, who may now be seen through the brush of Blackburn and Copley. Just one year, three months, and fifteen days before his daughter Elizabeth became Madam Rogers, Reverend Arthur Browne had made Martha Hilton Lady Wentworth of the Hall. While Parson Browne hesitated at the Wentworth marriage on the Governor's birthday, on this, his daughter's wedding day, he hastened to read the service, and fairly beamed upon his son-in-law.

Major Robert Rogers was twenty-nine years old and had acquired a name and fame in the French and Indian War not eclipsed by any officer then distinguished for valor. Elizabeth was twenty years old, graceful and queen-like. Robert Rogers had met and loved this young girl at the beginning of the "Old French and Indian War." The long trial and delay of their love is charmingly sung by Whittier in his ballad "The Ranger," Robert Rawlin and Martha Mason being no others than Robert Rogers and Elizabeth Browne.

ROBERT RAWLIN!—Frosts were falling
When the ranger's horn was calling
Through the woods to Canada.
Gone the winter's sleet and snowing,
Gone the spring-time's bud and blowing,

MRS. ROBERT ROGERS

(Elizabeth Browne)

From a Portrait by Blackburn

Gone the summer's harvest mowing,
And again the fields are gray.
Yet away, he 's away!
Faint and fainter hope is growing
In the hearts that mourn his stay.

Where the lion crouching high on
Abraham's rock with teeth of iron,
Glares o'er wood and wave away,
Faintly thence, as pines far sighing,
Or as thunder spent and dying,
Come the challenge and replying,
Come the sounds of flight and fray.
Well-a-day! Hope and pray!
Some are living, some are lying
In their red graves far away.

Straggling rangers, worn with dangers,
Homeward faring, weary strangers
Pass the farm-gate on their way;
Tidings of the dead and living,
Forest march and ambush, giving,
Till the maidens leave their weaving,
And the lads forget their play.
"Still away, still away!"
Sighs a sad one, sick with grieving,
"Why does Robert still delay!"

. . . . . .

"Martha Mason, Martha Mason,
Prithee tell us of the reason
Why you mope at home to-day:
Surely smiling is not sinning;
Leave your quilting, leave your spinning;
What is all your store of linen,
If your heart is never gay?
Come away, come away!

Never yet did sad beginning
Make the task of life a play."

. . . . . .

"Never tell us that you'll fail us,
Where the purple beach-plum mellows
On the bluffs so wild and gray.
Hasten, for the oars are falling;
Hark, our merry mates are calling:
Time it is that we were all in,
Singing tideward down the bay!"
"Nay, nay, let me stay;
Sore and sad for Robert Rawlin
Is my heart," she said, "to-day."

"Vain your calling for Rob Rawlin!
Some red squaw his moose-meat's broiling,
Or some French lass, singing gay;
Just forget as he's forgetting;
What avails a life of fretting?
If some stars must needs be setting,
Others rise as good as they."
"Cease, I pray; go your way!"
Martha cries, her eyelids wetting:
"Foul and false the words you say!"

"Martha Mason, hear to reason!
Prithee, put a kinder face on!"
"Cease to vex me," did she say;
"Better at his side be lying,
With the mournful pine-trees sighing,
And the wild birds o'er us crying,
Than to doubt like mine a prey;
While away, far away,
Turns my heart, forever trying
Some new hope for each new day.

ROBERT ROGERS, "THE RANGER"

"When the shadows veil the meadows,
And the sunset's golden ladders
Sink from twilight's walls of gray,—
From the window of my dreaming,
I can see his sickle gleaming,
Cheery-voiced, can hear him teaming
Down the locust-shaded way;
But away, swift away,
Fades the fond, delusive seeming,
And I kneel again to pray.

"When the growing dawn is showing,
And the barn-yard cock is crowing,
And the horned moon pales away:
From a dream of him awaking,
Every sound my heart is making
Seems a footstep of his taking;
Then I hush the thought, and say,
'Nay, nay, he's away!'
Ah! my heart, my heart is breaking
For the dear one far away."

Look up, Martha! worn and swarthy,
Glows a face of manhood worthy:
"Robert!" "Martha!" all they say.
O'er went wheel and reel together,
Little cared the owner whither;
Heart of lead is heart of feather,
Noon of night is noon of day!
Come away, come away!
When such lovers meet each other,
Why should prying idlers stay?

Robert Rogers was born in Methuen, Massachusetts, November 7, 1731, the son of James and Mary (McFatridge) Rogers. Early in 1739, James Rogers removed with his family to the wilderness in

the township now known as Dunbarton, New Hampshire. Here he established himself on a domain of 2190 acres which he called "Munterloney" after a place in Ireland where he had once lived. Young Robert Rogers grew to be a well-formed, fine-appearing man, six feet in height and an athlete. At the age of twenty-three he organized the famous force against the Indians known as "Rogers' Rangers," which operated with great success against the Indian foes, particularly around Lake George. His hairbreadth escapes from the Indians after a battle there led to the naming of a cliff "Rogers' Rock" and the belief by the Indians that he bore a charmed life. This famous "Rogers' Rock" rises more than a thousand feet above the lake. The Indians pursued Rogers to the summit, and the next they saw of him he was crossing the lake, far below its base, to which no Indian dared to slide. The scene of this exploit is now owned by David Williams, Esq., of New York, and will undoubtedly be preserved by him as a permanent memorial to the man who did invaluable service in protecting the white settlers from the warlike hand of the red man.[1]

On the 9th of April, 1756, Major Rogers was made a member of St. John's Lodge, No. 1, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, of Portsmouth. It may have been at this time that he met Arthur Browne and created an impression which made the chaplain of the lodge favorably inclined toward Rogers' suit for his daughter's hand. But Rogers was busy with military affairs. In 1759, with his Rangers, he destroyed the Indian village of St. Francis, at Three Rivers, between Montreal and Quebec. The following year Sir Jeffrey Amherst sent him to take possession of Detroit and other western posts ceded by the French after the fall of Quebec. Near the site of the present city of Cleveland he met Pontiac, and a peace was effected with the wily chieftain. Rogers was the first Englishman to carry the English flag through the chain of Great Lakes.

[1] *A Battle fought on Snow Shoes*, by Mary Cochrane Rogers. Privately printed, 1917.

MAJOR ROBERT ROGERS,

Commander in Chief of the INDIANS *in the Back Settlements of* AMERICA

Publish'd as the Act directs 1st May 1776

Returning to Portsmouth, he married, as stated, Elizabeth Browne, the event being duly chronicled by the *New-Hampshire Gazette* of July 3, 1761, under the heading "Portsmouth":

"Last Tuesday Evening was Married here Major ROBERT ROGERS (who has so eminently distinguished himself in the Service of his King and Country) to Miss BETSEY BROWNE, youngest Daughter of the Rev. Mr. ARTHUR BROWNE of this Place."

The home to which Major Robert Rogers took his bride was, until a year or two ago, still standing, and was one of the four oldest houses in Concord, New Hampshire. It was of the type of architecture known as "lean-to," two stories in front and with a roof sloping to one story in the rear. The farm on which it was located consisted of some five hundred acres, which in 1762 Robert Rogers deeded to his father-in-law, the Reverend Arthur Browne, who two days later transferred it to his son, Marmaduke Browne, to be held in trust for his sister Elizabeth, wife of Robert Rogers. The farm descended even to the major's grandchildren. It was occupied for many years by Madam Rogers and later by Arthur Rogers, only son of Major Robert Rogers, and remained in the possession of his family until about 1830, when it became the property of Governor Hill. The house was finally made into tenements, occupied by Greeks, Italians, Albanians, Poles, and Turks, until, becoming uninhabitable, it was torn down.[1]

Here, in the palmy days of the old house, dwelt Elizabeth, the beautiful bride of the famous Ranger, surrounded by her servants, Sylvia, Castro, Pomp, and the Indian boy Billy, who was captured in the St. Francis raid. Here were entertained the Brownes, Livermores, St. Loes, Langdons, Wentworths, the Rogers's, and members of other notable families. Here were welcomed to the "fire room" or living-room Generals John Stark and Israel Putnam, Colonels Joseph Blanchard and John Goffe, Captains Caleb Page and Phin-

[1] Known as the "Old Ranger Rogers House" on Main Street, in 1827.

eas Stevens, and other heroes of the French and Indian wars. Towering over all was the stalwart figure of Major Robert Rogers, "the Mirror of Hospitality." Here it was that in the interval of peace Major Rogers turned to authorship and wrote those books, now become rare, in which he elaborated his notes, which he said were written "not with silence and leisure, but in deserts, on rocks and mountains, amidst the hurries, disorders, and noise of war, and under that depression of spirits which is the natural consequence of exhausting fatigue."[1]

In 1765, Major Rogers visited England and arranged for the publication of his books, which were favorably received. He was appointed by the King Governor and Commander-in-Chief at the frontier post of Michilimackinac, then the most important military and trading post in the interior. After a journey of some thirteen hundred miles, Rogers arrived at his post, taking with him his wife, who was delighted with the new country and was warmly received by the Indians. The *New-Hampshire Gazette and Historical Chronicle* of December 12, 1766, gives an account of a speech of the "Otawars" to Governor Rogers upon his taking possession of the fort at Michilimackinac with a list of the presents bestowed on the occasion, which included a beaver blanket to Madam Rogers, with this presentation speech:

"We thank our Mother for coming along with our Father. We see by her coming that she had no Fear, that they thought she had some of her Children the *Otawars* here that were quiet, that she thought well of us, and shew'd us Charity; here is a Bed we give her, she may sit down upon it quietly, without Fear, and see her Children all round her."

But this happiness was of short duration. Rumors of trouble came to Government House from Sir William Johnson of New York,

[1] *Journals of Major Robert Rogers.* London, MDCCLXV; *A Concise Account of North America.* London, MDCCLXV; *Ponteach, or The Savages of America. A Tragedy.* London, MDCCLXVI.

who was jealous of Rogers' influence and power. A conspiracy was formed to ruin Rogers, and he was accused of a plot to betray the fort into the hands of the French, a suggestion which to-day would have been looked upon as ridiculous. But Rogers was arrested in December, 1768, and put in irons. Madam Rogers, in writing of the time, says that no words can paint the horror of the scene. With Rogers in confinement all discipline was gone. A party broke into the storehouse and got the rum out. Soon drunken brawls arose, and these, with the barking of dogs and whoops of the Indians, filled her with fright and dismay. This shocking and barbarous conduct was a revelation to Parson Browne's daughter, who had always been protected and shielded from all unpleasant scenes by her gallant husband. A few months later, she arrived in Portsmouth, New Hampshire, at the home of her parents. Rogers was taken to Montreal in irons for trial, where he was honorably acquitted.[1]

The *New-Hampshire Gazette* of August 26, 1768, contains the brief paragraph:

"The Wife of Major Rogers came to Town last Wednesday Evening:—It is said by some that the Major is innocent of the Crime he is charged with."

Madam Rogers became the mother of a son Arthur, who was baptized by his grandfather, the Reverend Arthur Browne, in Queen's Chapel, Portsmouth, February 12, 1769. In spite of his acquittal, Rogers was not satisfied to remain at home, and in that year again went to England, where he found an opportunity to go to Africa, and engage again in military service. There he fought in two battles under the Dey of Algiers. Madam Rogers subsequently went to her home in Concord, where she continued to exercise her social sway.

Just before the outbreak of the Revolution in 1775, Rogers returned to his native country where, "had he not been suspected of

[1] *Life and Letters of Major Robert Rogers*, by Mary Cochrane Rogers, nearly ready for the press.

being hostile to the revolutionary movement, he might perhaps have obtained an important commission and rendered signal services. He had seen more arduous and difficult service than most of the continental officers."

"General John Stark, who had been for years the companion and friend of Rogers, gave him full credit for his courage, and was of opinion that he would have proved a faithful friend to his native country had not suspicions been prematurely entertained of his designs. He was denounced as a Tory before he had avowed his principles. When Rogers was refused admission to the American camp at Cambridge occupied by the Continental troops, General Stark, who had been his second in command in the Seven Years' War, visited his old friend at Medford."[1]

Refused entrance to the American camp by Washington, who said, "The only man I ever was afraid of was Major Robert Rogers," he obtained, in 1776, a colonelcy in the British Army, operating on Long Island with what was known as "The Queen's Rangers," afterwards commanded by Colonel Simcoe. In 1778 Rogers was proscribed by the legislature of New Hampshire, which also granted a divorce to his wife. He returned to England, embittered with his treatment, although in a letter to Washington at this time he wrote: "I love America. It is my native country and I hope to spend the evening of my days in it." The wish was not gratified. Through force of circumstances he became the most noted proscribed loyalist of this country. He died in London, December 13, 1793. His wife, who afterward married Captain John Roche, Commander of the "Ranger" previous to the celebrated Paul Jones, died at Concord, New Hampshire, December 11, 1813.

Arthur, son and only child of Robert and Elizabeth Rogers, lived in the "Ranger Rogers House," on the Rogers Farm. He was a brilliant scholar and lawyer. He died at Portsmouth, in August, 1841.

[1] *Memoir of Robert Rogers*, by Caleb Stark. Concord, New Hampshire. 1860.

He married Margaret, daughter of Robert Furniss, Esq., of Portsmouth, and a sister of William Ponsonby Furniss.

Robert Rogers (named for Robert the Ranger), the eldest child of Arthur and Margaret (Furniss) Rogers, was born in Concord, New Hampshire, Thursday, March 26, 1795, at 3 o'clock A.M. He was baptized by Reverend Mr. Willard, August 23, 1795, in Queen's Chapel, Portsmouth, as there recorded: "Robert, infant son of Arthur Rogers, Esq., and wife who were sponsors with Capt. Robert Furniss, the godfather." He served as a volunteer in the War of 1812 and was honorably discharged. In 1835 he settled in Derry, New Hampshire, where he died October 2, 1878.

Chapter XII

Arthur and Peter Browne, Soldiers

ARTHUR BROWNE, the son of Reverend Arthur Browne and his eighth child, was born in Portsmouth, New Hampshire, in the year 1743. When only sixteen years old he entered the British Army. He married, first, in 1769, Catherine Kitson, of a Devonshire family, by whom he had twelve children—eight sons and four daughters, of whom one son and one daughter died in infancy. After the death of his first wife he married again, in or before 1801. His second wife was Dorothea Anne, daughter of the Reverend Adderley Browne, of Kinsale, of an Irish family of that name. By her he had nine children—three sons and six daughters, of whom two daughters died in infancy, and only one daughter and two sons married. His military autobiography is given in a letter written while he was Lieutenant-Governor of Kinsale and Charles Fort, furnished me by the Reverend Marmaduke E. Browne, of London.[1]

SIR,

I received your letter of 25th ult.—I do not think any publication of my services will tend much to military improvement, but as you request me to furnish you with them, I will relate some of the prominent features, leaving to you the selection of what may contribute to the furtherance of your work.

On the 7th February 1759 I was appointed a Lieutenant Fireworker of Artillery—a rank which in those days classed with an

[1] The original draft of which this is a copy is in the possession of Lieut. Col. Arthur's grandson, Lt: Gen: Sir A. G. F. Browne, K.C.B., D.S.O., &c., who kindly lent it to me for transcription. There is no indication of the person to whom the letter itself was to be sent, nor is it dated: but the date is clearly shown in the concluding sentence: "*even now, after a service of 57 years,*"—for this 57 years commenced in 1759, & therefore the letter must have been written in 1816 or 1817. (M. E. B.)

REV. MARMADUKE EDMONSTONE BROWNE

From a Photograph, 1918

Ensign of the Line,— and the following spring I embarked to join the Army, destined against Quebec, under the command of Major General Wolfe.

On the 13th September 1759, the day that excellent Officer fell, I acted as Brigade Major to my relation Colonel George Williamson who commanded the whole of the Artillery on the American Service, and I was present with the General when he received his mortal wound.[1]

On the 28th day of April 1760 I was ordered to attach myself with two Field Pieces to the 35th Regiment, and we marched from Quebec to attack Mons. Livy, with 3000 Infantry & 22 pieces of cannon. During this unequal combat, for Mons. Livy's army consisted of 15,000 men, I was directed to advance with one Field Piece & join the Grenadier Company under Capt: Ince who was ordered to support the Lt. Infantry of the Army under Major Dolling (afterwards Sir John Dolling). This Company consisted of 63 Rank & File, and lost on this occasion Capt: Ince and 54 men. I was slightly wounded in the hip and had six of the detachment at the gun killed or severely wounded. Altho' we were completely beaten, and obliged to retreat to Quebec with the loss of all our Artillery and 1160 men besides a prodigious number of Officers, we retained the place, and Mons. Livy was obliged to raise the siege on the 20th of May, and retire with his Army to Montreal.

I was then solicited by Lt: Col: Howe,— afterwards Sir Wm. Howe, & then Lord Howe,— to leave the Artillery and accept of an Ensigncy in the 58th Reg[t], which solicitation was an unlucky circumstance to me, for if I had remained in the Artillery I should have had a battalion of Artillery some years ago, being, if I had remained in that Corps, next to the present Sir Thomas Bloomfield: and not being with Sir Wm. Howe's Army in America I never received any advantage from him. But I was appointed an Ensign

[1] Lieutenant Browne attended General Wolfe in his dying moments.

in the 58th Regt on the 18th Octr 1760, and soon after the conquest of Canada I marched with that Regt to New York, crossing the Lakes Champlain & George, and then embarked for the West Indies, where I was at the storming the Moro Castle & taking of the Havanna.

Febv following I embarked on board the Rippon, of sixty guns, with a detachment of the Regt to act as Marines, Lord Albemarle with his suit having embarked in this man of war for England, and we arrived at Spithead after a passage of 28 days.

On the 29th of April following (1763) I purchased my Lieutenancy, and on the 31st March 1770 I purchased my Captain Lieutenancy, and on the dispute with Spain about Falklands Island I embarked with the Regt at Cork to reinforce the garrison of Gibraltar.

On the 6th April 1772 I purchased my Company, and at the siege of Gibraltar received a severe contusion from a spent splinter of a shell, but which, however, did not deprive me of doing my duty.[1]

On the 12th June 1782 I was made a Major by Brevet, and on the 29th March 1786 I was appointed Major of the 58th Regt over the head of the senior Capt: Lieut: Colonel Dawson, from the recommendation of Lt: General Mackay, the Commander in Chief in Scotland, who reviewed the Regt at Edinburgh and reported this measure necessary for the good of the Service.

In the year 1788, being quartered in Dublin, and the South of Ireland being at that time disturbed, it was judged necessary to send a skilful Officer to reside at Charles Fort, the Staff of Ireland being at that time on a very limited scale: and it was proposed to me to purchase the Lt: Government of Kinsale & Charles Fort from Lt: Col: Bernard (now General Bernard) then on half pay but who could not reside. To enable me to do this the Majority was to be

[1] "The Relief of Gibraltar," painted by J. S. Copley; in which is included a portrait of *Major Arthur Brown* [*sic*], aet: 40. (M. E. B.)

LIEUT.-COL. ARTHUR BROWNE

From a Miniature attributed to Copley

sold, and the Lord Lieutenant, the late Marquis of Buckingham, promised in the King's name that my rank in the Army should be continued to me. Under these circumstances, and considering that the Transaction was merely selling one Commission and purchasing a Superior one, I acquiesced, & I was appointed Lt: Governor of Kinsale & Charles Fort on the 18th of August 1789,—and on the 12th Octr 1793 I was made Lt: Colonel by Brevet, agreeable to the promise made: but His Royal Highness the Duke of York has since been pleased to order that my rank should rest where it is; and I now remain with the Rank of Lt: Colonel, subject to be daily commanded by Officers greatly my juniors:—one, the late Gen. Crouzey, commanded the District, whom I recommended for an Ensigncy when I was Major of the 58th Regt—and to add to my misfortunes I am bound by an *ex post facto* Law to remain Lt: Governor: so that all my purchase money is lost to my family, and my Wife, even now, after a service of 57 years, will be left destitute of a pension,—and this because I was considered an active diligent Officer.

The appeal was unsuccessful: and, as he feared, at his death March 3, 1827, his widow was left without any pension, with her three daughters and two youngest sons dependent on her very limited means. The two boys, Sackville and St. John, were, in the matter of their education, practically "adopted" by the two elder surviving sons of the first family, Sir Thomas Browne, K.C.H., undertaking the cost of his youngest half-brother, St. John, and Colonel Marmaduke W. Browne that of Sackville.

Sackville (George Henry Sackville) entered the army and went to India, but in a very short time pleaded ill-health and, leaving the service, emigrated to America and devoted himself to farming. He died in Barbados, in 1886. His only son, Arthur Adderley Browne, became a physician and was at the head of his profession in Montreal.

St. John Thomas, the youngest of the second family, served in the Royal Artillery from 1829 till his death in 1861, having reached the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel in 1854. He served in Canada, 1840–42; at the Cape, in the Kaffir War, 1843–49 (medal); Mauritius, 1850–53, and in the Crimean War, where he commanded a Brigade of Artillery after the siege of Sebastopol.

His only son is now Lieutenant-General Sir Arthur George Frederic Browne, K.C.B., D.S.O., "b. 1851; ed. at Wellington Coll.; entered 44th Regt. 1871 and B.S.C. (now I.S.C.) 1876, became Capt. 1883, Major 1891, Lieut.-Col. 1897, Brevet Col. 1898, Col. 1902, Maj.-Gen. 1904, and Lieut.-Gen. 1908; retired 1909; served during Afghan War 1878–79 (medal), in Burma War 1886 (medal with clasp), with Lushai Expedition 1889 (despatches, clasp), with Chin-Lushai Expedition 1889–90 (despatches, clasp, D.S.O.), in Chin Hills 1891–92, in command of Tlantlang column (clasp), with Chitral Relief Force 1895 (medal with clasp), with Tirah Expedition 1897–98, present at actions of Sampagha, Arhanga, and Saransar, and operations against Khani Khel Chamkannis, in Bazar Valley 25th to 30th Dec. 1897, and with Khyber Field Force 1898 (despatches, two clasps, Brevet Col.); appointed to command a 2nd class Dist. in India 1902, Garhwal Brig., 7th Div. E. Army Corps, India 1904, 5th (Mhow) Division 1907, 3rd Div. N. Army, India 1907–1908 and Col. 4th Gurkha Rifles 1906: received a good service pension of £100 a year in addition to ordinary: m. 1882, Kate Fisher, da. of the late Rev. J. H. Budden; cr. D.S.O. 1890, C.B. (Mil.) 1903, K.C.B. (Mil.) 1909. Woodside, Lower Bourne, Farnham, Surrey.

"*Son Living* — St. John Arthur, b. 1885; Major, Indian Army: m. 1918, Margaret Leslie, da. of James Leslie Sweet, of Woodham Grange, Horsell, Surrey.

"*Daughters Living* — Margaret Mabel Helen, b. 1883: m. 1906, Major John Liesching Grinlinton, D.S.O., R.G.A., — Kathleen

LIEUT.-GEN. SIR ARTHUR G. F. BROWNE

K.C.B., D.S.O.

From a Photograph

Mildred, b. 1887,—Aileen Irene Dora, b. 1889,—Doreen Muriel Enid, b. 1898."

Of Lieutenant-Colonel Arthur Browne, *The Cork Constitution* in its issue of March 6, 1827, in an obituary notice says in part:

"His merits as a military man are not more entitled to credit & emulation than his salutary efforts as a peacemaker, when Ireland, during the rebellion of 1798, martial law being in force, was torn by discord & dissension; and the warm gratitude that still lives in the hearts of the peasantry within the precincts of his military command, likewise the poor in the neighbourhood of Kinsale, is perhaps the best tribute that can be paid to his memory, as a man and as a Christian.

"Upwards of five thousand friends, gentleman, and peasantry, were assembled at the place of sepulture, to pay their last mournful respects to this inestimable veteran."

Peter, the youngest of the family of Reverend Arthur Browne, was born in Portsmouth, New Hampshire, May 4, 1746. He entered the British Army in 1760, at the age of fourteen. Through the kindness of the Director of Personal Service at the British War Office, I find in Kane's *List of the Officers of the Royal Artillery* this entry: "Peter Brown, (late) Royal Artillery.—Fireworker, 18th October, 1760.—2nd Lieutenant, 12th April 1768.—1st Lieutenant, 4th January 1771. Died in Surrey 11th October, 1776."

George Adam Browne, the only son of Peter Brown "of Gibraltar," was educated at Charterhouse, and entered Trinity College, Cambridge, as a sizar, February 3, 1791, aged sixteen. He was elected a Scholar in 1794; Bachelor of Arts in 1795; Fellow of Trinity, 1797; Master of Arts, 1798; Junior Dean, 1806 and 1807; Junior Bursar, 1808 to 1823; and Vice-Master, 1842 and 1843, when he died.

Chapter XIII

Portsmouth's Old Homes

NO city in New England is richer in fine old Colonial houses than Portsmouth, New Hampshire. Here and there, scattered along its shaded streets, are some of the finest examples of Colonial architecture to be found, and in most cases they have been preserved in their original beauty. The houses are as alive to-day as they ever were. Now and then some of these old treasure houses are opened to the public for the benefit of St. John's (Arthur Browne's Church, as the people still love to call it), and in the old gardens may be seen descendants of Portsmouth's old families, wandering among the old-fashioned rose beds and arbors, as in the days of yore.

Among the finest examples of architecture is the Governor John Langdon mansion on Pleasant Street, adopted (1907) as a model for a New Hampshire house at the Charleston Exposition. It was erected in 1784 by Governor John Langdon. He was the first president of the United States Senate, and as such informed General Washington of his election as President of the United States. He was five times governor of New Hampshire. Presidents Washington, Monroe, and Taft were entertained in this house. Half-hidden by a magnificent linden tree sits the Wentworth Gardner House, a perfect type of American architecture. This mansion was erected in 1760, by Madam Hunking Wentworth, for her son Thomas. In the kitchen is a large fireplace equipped with an automatic device for roasting meats.

In its setting of graceful elms stands the Warner House, a noted example of early Georgian architecture in America. This mansion was commenced in 1718 and finished in 1723, at an expense of £6000. The brick used in the construction of the eighteen-inch

JOHN LANGDON, Esq.

From a Painting by Greenwood

walls was brought from Holland. Over the heavy studded door are two bull's-eye panes of glass. The broad stairway has its walls decorated with original mural paintings, of unknown origin, in perfect condition, representing Governor Phips on his charger, a lady at a spinning-wheel, Abraham offering up Isaac, and numerous other subjects. Once covered by four layers of wall paper, these decorations were accidentally discovered when the removal of a small piece of the paper revealed a painted horse's hoof. In the hall hang enormous elk antlers, presented to the first owner of the house by two Indian friends with whom he dealt in furs. Portraits of these two Indians hang beside them. On the floor of the front room is a carpet which has the distinction of being spotted with wine spilled upon it by Lafayette, a guest at the time. The carpet (despite the wine) is in a remarkable state of preservation, and is still in use. On the walls hang portraits, among them one of Polly Warner by Copley. In a chest may be seen clothes of pre-Revolutionary date — red coats, embroidered long vests, and small-clothes. There is a christening robe made of true cloth of gold. There is an old cocked hat and a sword and a beribboned pair of breeches. Upstairs the beds are all canopied, covered with Revolutionary counterpanes. In one of the chambers is a genuine Franklin stove, one of the few "originals" in existence. Up one side of the Warner House climbs a rusty lightning rod, installed by Benjamin Franklin while visiting Colonel Warner in 1762. This house has never been out of the possession of the family. It has simply passed from one heir to another, without deed. It is entirely furnished with beautiful specimens of early American furniture.

At the end of Little Harbor Road stands the pile of buildings erected by Governor Benning Wentworth in 1750. This mansion is made famous by Longfellow in his ballad of "Lady Wentworth." It was here that the Reverend Arthur Browne in band and gown made Martha Hilton (1760) "Lady Wentworth of the Hall." This

house contains thirty-two rooms. In the cellar thirty horses could be stabled in time of danger. The famous Council Chamber, where the King's Council met when Benning Wentworth was governor, is preserved in its original state. The carved mantel-piece above the spacious fire-place, before which Patty Hilton stood on her wedding day gaily attired in rich corn-colored silk, with her hair three stories high, required more than a year's time of a wood-carver's chisel. On the walls once hung a valuable portrait, painted by Copley, of the lovely Dorothy Quincy, who married John Hancock and afterwards became Madam Scott. This lady was a niece of Dr. Holmes's "Dorothy Q." Despite the discrepancy in age—forty years—Lady Wentworth turned out to be a faultless wife, and Governor Wentworth signified his approval of her by leaving her his entire estate at his death in 1770. The period of mourning was very brief, however—two months—for that same year she married again, this time Colonel Michael Wentworth, a retired officer of the British Army, who came to this country in 1767. He fixed his residence at Little Harbor and soon dissipated his wife's fortune in high living. He died suddenly in New York—it was said by his own hand. The last words attributed to him were, "I have had my cake, and ate it." The death of one of Portsmouth's most distinguished daughters is thus recorded in the *Oracle*, published Saturday, December 28, 1805:

"Died in this town on Wednesday last after a short illness which she bore with great fortitude and entire resignation to the Divine Will, Madam Martha Wentworth relict of the late Col. Michael Wentworth, aged 67.

"The funeral will take place this afternoon and move from the house of the late Judge [Woodbury] Langdon at three o'clock."

Colonel Michael and Martha Hilton Wentworth had one child, named Martha. The harpsichord in the Council Chamber belonged to Martha Wentworth. Long after the Revolution she married Sir

John Wentworth, a nephew of Governor John Wentworth, and resided for some time in the mansion at Little Harbor. She died in London in 1852.

It is interesting to note that the rich corn-colored silk gown worn by Martha Hilton was preserved and became the wedding gown of a direct descendant—Mrs. William Alexander, of Philadelphia.

On Livermore Street stands the Livermore Mansion, erected by Matthew Livermore about 1735, on the present Haven Park, fronting on Pleasant Street. Samuel Livermore, called "the great man of New Hampshire" in his time, lived here during the administration of Governor John Wentworth. Although this house has had two removals, it stands to-day a fine example of Colonial architecture.

Shaded by horse-chestnut trees stands the Moffatt-Ladd House. This delightful old building is the home of the Society of the Colonial Dames of New Hampshire. It was built in 1763, by Captain John Moffatt, commander of one of the King's ships carrying masts from Kittery Point to England. It became the home of General William Whipple, a son-in-law, who was elected a member of the Continental Congress in 1775, and who was a signer of the Declaration of Independence. This mansion came into the possession of Alexander Ladd and his wife, whose descendants transferred it to the Society of Colonial Dames for twenty years. The building is of unusual architectural interest. The hall is a reproduction of a hall in the house of Captain Moffatt's father in England. Some of the wood carvings were done by Grinling Gibbons. The house is furnished in Colonial style. In the rear is a delightful old garden, with arbors, terraces, lawns, and walks bordered by flowers of our great-great-grandmother's day.

On Court Street is the home of Mr. Winslow Pierce, a large and fine structure with a graceful cupola. This house was either built by McIntire or in his style, in the early nineteenth century. It has never

been out of the family. Its chief attraction is a spiral staircase that ascends from the entrance hall, winding up for three stories. And in the ceiling above the stairs is a delicate white medallion. A closet contains old china, and a cupboard, fans, watches, and rings. The woodwork is unusually delicate, and is all hand-carved.

On Pleasant Street stands the Jacob Wendell House, built about 1765. A charming enclosed garden extends within a series of enclosed courtyards far in the rear. Since 1817 it has been in the Wendell family, nor has any division of property ever taken place. All the furniture and effects of the five Wendell generations have been preserved there. Many of the pieces date back to 1750. Within, decorated window shades, an ancient piano, an old fire screen, and pieces of old glass and chinaware delight the interested visitor. One obtains here certainly more than a glimpse into the past.

The Spencer House on State Street dates from 1763, and has been occupied at various times by the Portsmouth families of Parrot, Pickering, and Whipple. Its chief feature is a magnificent staircase, to which nearly the whole lower floor is sacrificed. Unusual combinations of white painted wood and natural mahogany add to its beauty by contrast. Behind the house is a garden which contains a number of arched bowers, through which a view of the finely proportioned door can be had.

There are three buildings in Portsmouth attributed to Bulfinch: the Portsmouth Public Library; the Larkin House of red brick with beautiful Palladian windows, built in 1813; and the Portsmouth Athenaeum, established as a library by act of Legislature in 1817. The Athenaeum contains a valuable collection of early books, and is especially rich in rare prints and pamphlets of early provincial days. It has received many valuable legacies. Among them were those of Benjamin T. Tredick, of Philadelphia, and Charles Levi Woodbury, of Boston. It contains paintings of Sir Peter Warren, done in 1751, and of Sir William Pepperrell, who led the New England

THE GOVERNOR BENNING WENTWORTH HOUSE, PORTSMOUTH

forces at Louisburg in 1745. There are also pictures and models of ships, and an order of George II in Council appointing a committee to assemble at Hampton to adjust the boundaries between New Hampshire and Massachusetts Bay. Two British cannon flank the front door. An Admiralty model of the British 74-gun ship "America," built under the supervision of John Paul Jones on Badger's Island, is one of the treasures of the Athenaeum.

The porches and front doors of many of these old Portsmouth dwellings have long been recognized as the most interesting Colonial architecture existing in the country.

The End

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